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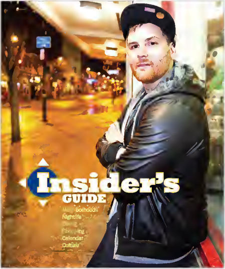

NEWS 7

BERKELEY'S SOLAR PLAN GOES DARK

The city has decided to abandon its once-touted home-solar financing program.

By Judith Scherr

The City of Berkeley's home solar financing program was going to be revolutionary. The highly publicized plan was supposed to help thousands of city residents install solar panels on their roofs without any up-front money. But two years after the city proudly unveiled the program, those thousands of new solar systems have never materialized. In fact, despite accolades from the *East Bay Express* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* to *The New York Times* and the *UK Guardian*, the BerkeleyFIRST pilot program ended up serving just thirteen property owners. And the city has no plans to continue it. *Story inside*

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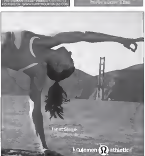

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On the Cover *Chuck Steadham. Photograph by Sonya Revell.*

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
SHARP EDGES, EPIC STORY

LETTERS

[illegible]

Not Samurai Jack

When I saw the cover illustration for Rachel Swan's story about Sanjay Patel, I was ecstatic.

"Woo hoo," I thought. "Finally *Samurai Jack* comes to the big screen!"

I was a bit let down when I found out it wasn't, but it sounds like it will be just as good.

Simon Rubenstein, Oakland

[illegible]

Dispelling Electric Car Myths

As one of the first Berkeley residents to drive a biodiesel car who traded it in for a plug-in hybrid, I feel both are great technologies that help contribute to the solution. For my particular driving habits, I'm able to stay within the all-electric range of my vehicle most of the time, which makes the plug-in hybrid a far superior choice.

I'm dismayed at some of the misconceptions about plug-in vehicles that are still out there and would like to clarify a few points.

Electric cars using PG&E to recharge produce 75 percent less greenhouse gas than comparable gasoline cars. This is because PG&E uses very little coal to generate energy and has one of the highest concentrations of renewable generation. In addition, for about $5/month, I participate in the PG&E climate smart program, which means I get truly 100 percent carbon neutral electric "fuel" for my car. If I owned my home, I would use solar panels on my house to achieve the same result.

My old biodiesel car was great for reducing petroleum use, but every morning when it started it would spew out a cloud of white smoke and my neighbors could smell me coming from around the block. Most of the time my plug-in hybrid has no tailpipe emissions at all so it doesn't contribute to ground-level ozone or smog or produce fine soot particles that cause lung cancer the way biodiesel and other cars do.

While $7,000 might sound expensive for a plug-in hybrid upgrade, today's price for biodiesel is $3.84/gallon. In comparison, I pay only the equivalent of $1.50/gallon for electricity so the cost savings over the lifetime of the vehicle are considerable. If I switched to a time-of-use rate, I could recharge my car at night for the equivalent of as little as $0.60/gallon.

Berkeley is fortunate to have a convenient filling station for biodiesel, but the infrastructure for my plug-in car is still much easier to find. I can recharge in the comfort of my own home and while at work without ever needing to make a detour to visit a fueling station.

Finally, there is a limited supply of sustainable biodiesel made from used fryer oil available, while PG&E has an excess supply of electricity during the nighttime hours when many people choose to recharge their plug-in cars. Studies show there is enough excess supply at night to fuel millions of plug-in vehicles.

Hopefully in the future there will be the option of a biodiesel plug-in hybrid car. Until then, I think each person needs to choose what technology works best for their particular situation.

Daniel Sherwood, President, 3Prong Power Inc., Berkeley

[illegible] Eco Watch

Who's Being Sneaky?

Nate Seltenrich apparently did not understand his own article. Mr. Seltenrich reports that both Chevron and CBE state that Chevron wants to mediate the dispute. Chevron's spokesman says, "we ask that they respect the ongoing court of appeals mediation process." CBE says: "They want to do this really quietly through a court mediation process." So, it's not that Chevron won't mediate, it's that Chevron wants to honor the time-tested and effective process of mediation in a confidential setting with a neutral facilitator, whereas CBE wants to "mediate" publicly, via press releases. This is not a case of Chevron shunning alternative methods to resolution other than seeking a decision on the merits, it's a case of CBE violating the confidentiality of the court's mediation process to make political points. The *East Bay Express* should be sophisticated enough to understand the difference.

Joshua Genser, Richmond

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March 9 The Imperative of Transcending Imperialism: Self-determination for Global Citizenship
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JOHN YOO, TOO EXTREMIST TO BE GUILTY

A prosecutor in the Obama Justice Department lets UC Berkeley's infamous torture professor off the hook.

By Robert Gammon

In a long-awaited report released late last week, a career prosecutor in the US Department of Justice said UC Berkeley law professor John Yoo should not be held liable for authorizing torture and warrantless wiretaps while working for the Bush administration. The prosecutor overruled the conclusions of an internal Justice Department probe that found Yoo and his boss in the Bush administration, Jay Bybee, had engaged in "professional misconduct" and should face disbarment proceedings. The decision means that UC Berkeley's infamous torture professor likely will keep his law license and his tenure.

In a 69-page letter explaining his decision, Associate Deputy Attorney General David Margolis essentially argued that Yoo's extreme views about unlimited presidential power in wartime had "clouded" his judgment, and thus did not make him guilty of "professional misconduct." That is, Yoo should not be held accountable because he honestly believed that the president could ignore domestic and international laws. The reason, Margolis asserted, is that Yoo's extreme beliefs meant that he couldn't have known that his legal reasoning was wrong.

Margolis also concluded that the original investigation, conducted by the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility, had held Yoo to a standard that was too high. That office found that Yoo failed "to exercise independent legal judgment and to render thorough, objective, and candid legal advice" as required in his job with the Justice Department. In other words, Yoo wasn't just a lawyer advising a client; he also was required to tell that client what he didn't want to hear. But Margolis, who has the power to override the office's conclusions, argued that Yoo should be held to the lower standard that applies to all lawyers. In short, Margolis argued that lawyers give bad advice all the time and aren't disbarred for it.

But legal scholars are already pointing out the holes in Margolis' reasoning. Brian Tamanaha, a constitutional expert at St. John's University in New York, argued that Margolis tried to have it both ways. Margolis, for example, notes that Yoo's position as a UC Berkeley professor provides proof that he's a competent lawyer. But then he argues that Yoo's arguments are so extreme that he couldn't have known that the advice he gave to the Bush White House was incompetent.

But Tamanaha, like the internal Justice Department probe, contends the opposite. That is, professor Yoo must have known that his legal advice authorizing torture, which was later repudiated by the very same Bush Justice Department, was bogus, or at the very least, he must have known he was acting recklessly. It's also important to note that Bush-era officials, including former Vice President Dick Cheney, have repeatedly pointed to Yoo's legal conclusions to justify the torturing of prisoners.

Margolis' decision may allow the professor to remain at Berkeley. By contrast, a finding of "professional misconduct," a legal term of art, might have been sufficient for the campus to terminate Yoo. That's because one of the few ways a tenured professor can be fired under university regulations is if he committed "professional misconduct."

Schwarzenegger: Republicans Are Hypocrites

Finally, a prominent Republican politician had the guts to call out his colleagues for bashing the Obama stimulus package in Washington while bragging that the $862 billion program has created jobs in their own states. On Sunday, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger told ABC News: "I find it interesting that you have a lot of the Republicans running around and pushing back on the stimulus money and saying this doesn't create any new jobs, and then they go out and they do the photo ops and they are posing with the big check and they say, isn't this great? It doesn't match up."

MSNBC anchor Rachel Maddow, along with Democrats, liberal bloggers, and the White House have been pointing out the Republican hypocrisy for some time now. And Schwarzenegger's comments may mean that the GOP's duplicity over the stimulus will finally gain some traction in the mainstream media. Schwarzenegger also called out Republicans for being the "party of no," because of their knee-jerk opposition to the president, even when he pushes proposals that they agree with. Schwarzenegger also agreed with Democrats who say that Republicans are purposely opposing the president because they think it will lead to victories in the November election.

Three-Dot Roundup

Agents with the FBI, the IRS, and the Secret Service raided the Concord offices of the Seeno Family, one of the East Bay's most prominent developers and influential powerbrokers, according to the *Contra Costa Times*. ... US Senator Dianne Feinstein's controversial proposal to divert huge amounts of water to California agribusiness could destroy already collapsing fish populations in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta or result in a spike in water rates for urban and suburban residents. ... Feinstein also announced that she will not run for governor against her good friend Jerry Brown. ... *Cannabis Planet*, a new TV show about marijuana, debuted in the Bay Area last week on KOFY. ... But state politicians announced that the state's budget crisis means they will not finance any more medical pot studies, even though the latest one showed that cannabis could help relieve pain for millions of Americans. ... AC Transit revealed that it will still go ahead with across-the-board service cuts despite receiving a surprise $6.7 million in federal stimulus funds. ... And PG&E has already poured $6.5 million into a June ballot measure that would make it much tougher for cities to buy renewable energy. The utility is worried it will lose profits if municipalities join the public power market. ●

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Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510

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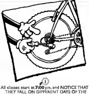

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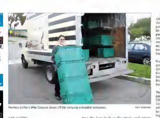

Peerless Coffee's Mike Connors shows off the company's reusable containers. Nate Seltenrich

ECO WATCH

GO GREEN, SAVE GREEN

Eco-conscious shipping containers allow businesses to realize serious behind-the-scenes savings.

By Nate Seltenrich

There's a new way for local businesses to go green. But they won't get much credit for it — not from customers, shareholders, or certifying agencies — even though it's cutting-edge in many industries. They won't get any fancy labels, seals, or logos to slap on their products. In fact, beyond a few close business contacts, no one will ever know about it. Yet the practice is virtually guaranteed to reduce waste and save money over the long-term, and has limited upfront costs. As Oakland's Peerless Coffee recently discovered, it's a lesson worth learning for many local businesses.

Although Peerless is no stranger to going green, company officials realized about two years ago that one element of their Jack London Square business had yet to be addressed: the coffee-bag-filled corrugated cardboard boxes they ship throughout the Bay Area. Every day, six to ten big, brand new cardboard cartons — at a cost of $1.20 each — vanished from the warehouse in trucks laden with one- and five-pound bags of coffee. The trucks would return and the coffee would be consumed, but the boxes would be lost somewhere in between, unaccounted for and forgotten. There was no way of knowing if they were recycled, reused, or just trashed. Day after day, week after week, the cost — and the waste — added up.

But then Peerless learned of a solution through Alameda County's StopWaste.org: Reusable shipping containers. Instead of disposable cardboard boxes, the company would move its coffee in plastic totes. At drop-off points, drivers would unload the coffee bags, toss the bins back in the truck, and return them to the warehouse to be refilled.

As Peerless' one-year reusable packaging pilot program draws to a close, the results are hard to ignore. When the company converts completely to the eco-conscious containers in the near future, it will save between $10,000 and $15,000 a year on cardboard costs, not to mention the stretch wrap and palette waste it'll avoid. The new totes are sturdier, easier to handle, and less likely to injure warehouse workers. And Peerless' restaurant and hotel clients are no longer left with the burden of disposing of large cardboard boxes. "The customers are very enthusiastic about it. They just love seeing this," said David Hecem, director of technical services and route sales. "It's been much more successful than I expected."

Although some environmentalists have questioned the wisdom of replacing recyclable cardboard, paper, and wood with yet more plastics, numerous studies have shown that throughout its entire lifecycle, reusable plastic packaging is greener. One of the more prominent studies, conducted by Franklin & Associates and peer-reviewed by the Michigan State University School of Packaging in late 2004, found that in the case of reusable and recyclable plastic containers versus disposable display-ready cardboard containers used for fresh produce, the reusables required 39 percent less total energy and generated 95 percent less solid waste and 29 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

In some respects, reusable packaging is on the vanguard of green business practices in the United States. According to StopWaste.org reusables program manager Justin Lehrer, the practice is already well entrenched in Europe, where shorter shipping distances make it easier to keep tabs on reusable containers. Worldwide, he said, the auto industry uses 95 percent reusable containers and only 5 percent disposable. Other industries, however, are just beginning to catch on. The produce industry is undergoing the early stages of a widespread conversion to reusable containers, said Lehrer, which should significantly reduce product damage and increase packing efficiency. Most others are further behind, and on the individual business level many have yet to consider it as an option.

Still, momentum is gathering. The Reusable Packaging Association, a trade group dedicated to promoting and selling reusable packaging services and products, has seen its numbers swell in recent years. "Reusable packaging in general continues to make incredible inroads again and again," said association board chairman Jon Kalin. "It's a real neat intersection between saving companies money in the long term and reducing their impact on the environment."

Here in Alameda County, StopWaste.org's biannual reusable packaging workshops are growing increasingly popular. The most recent, a half-day event held at the organization's downtown Oakland headquarters in late January, attracted over forty registrants from a diverse cross-section of local industries.

And Peerless isn't the only big-name East Bay business to convert to eco-conscious packaging with StopWaste.org's assistance. Ghirardelli Chocolate Company, based in San Leandro, was plagued by high packaging costs, soiled cardboard waste, collapsing cardboard boxes, and repetitive stress injuries from taping boxes shut. It was spending $520,000 a year on cardboard boxes for internal distribution alone and another $2,700 to dispose of them. A recent switch to plastic totes is projected to save Ghirardelli $2.6 million in packaging costs over five years and keep 350 tons of soiled cardboard out of landfills.

Peerless' experience with eco-friendly improvements made it easier for the company to grasp the benefits of embracing reusable packaging. Ten years ago, the 75-year-old, family-owned business realized it was operating at far from peak efficiency. Massive amounts of valuable Mylar scraps that it uses to package coffee were being lost to an outmoded process, while equally significant levels of coffee chaff — the outer skin of a coffee bean that sheds during the roasting process — were clogging up Peerless' waste stream.

So, through a partnership with StopWaste.org, Peerless purchased a new packaging machine that reduced waste by 95 percent and saved $100,000 a year in Mylar costs. A coffee chaff composting program, in concert with new recycling efforts, saved another $10,000 per year and reduced waste by fifty tons. The company even replaced toilets and lighting. Peerless was promptly certified as an Alameda County Green Business — "even before it became hip to be green," noted company Vice President George Vukasin, Jr.

Peerless' supply chain model also makes it well-suited for eco-conscious packaging. It's known as a closed loop system, meaning Peerless' shipping containers remain under its control throughout the entirety of the distribution cycle. This is the easiest type of system in which to introduce reusable packaging.

Open loop systems, on the other hand, pose one of the largest obstacles. If a business ships its products in bulk across the country, or even around the world, the difficulty of retaining the containers is dramatically increased. Some suppliers offer GPS or RFID tracking services, but this isn't always cost effective or even plausible. "We wished that it did make sense for everybody," Kalin explained, "but it doesn't." ●

To share this story type: ebx.ly/p/peerless

Got green ideas? Send tips for stories to: EcoWatch@EastBayExpress.com

Doug Barton

BERKELEY'S SOLAR PLAN GOES DARK

The city has decided to abandon its once-touted home-solar financing program

By Judith Scherr

The City of Berkeley's home-solar financing program was going to be revolutionary. The highly publicized plan was supposed to help thousands of city residents install solar panels on their roofs without any up-front money. But two years after the city proudly unveiled the program, those thousands of new solar systems have never materialized. In fact, despite accolades from the *East Bay Express* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* to *The New York Times* and the *UK Guardian*, the BerkeleyFIRST pilot program ended up serving just thirteen property owners. And the city has no plans to continue it.

Berkeley's solar initiative was the brainchild of Francisco DeVries, former chief of staff to Mayor Tom Bates. The idea was that property owners who wanted to go solar but didn't have $20,000 to $40,000 in up-front capital would get their photovoltaic systems paid off by the city soon after completion. The city then would raise the funds through bond sales, and property owners would repay the loan over twenty years as part of their property tax assessments. The savings on electricity bills should have been roughly equivalent to the increased property tax costs.

The pilot program was supposed to serve forty homeowners. And excited city residents quickly signed up online, on a first-come, first-served basis. But then 27 of the participants withdrew their names, many citing the high interest rate — 7.75 percent — that was tacked on to the twenty-year loan. "I applied for the program and when I got the program, I said 'No thank you,'" said Elisabeth Scherer in an interview. "They just loan you money higher than you could get elsewhere." Scherer added that she's still planning to install a solar system and will likely go to the bank that holds her mortgage where she can borrow the funds at a little over 5 percent. "Seven-point seven five is a little high for helping people to get solar," she said.

In fact, Berkeley officials even advised homeowners during the pilot that they might be

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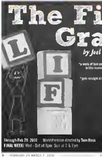

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better off going to a bank than using the city's program. "You might want to consider doing the home equity line of credit, which is approximately 3.5 percent right now with most banks," Alice La Pierre, the city's energy efficiency coordinator, wrote in an e-mail to one Berkeley resident. Many of the original forty applicants did just what La Pierre advised — they got loans from their banks.

Neal De Snoo, who heads the city's office of Energy and Sustainability, explained that the reason the city's interest rate was so high was that Berkeley issued the bonds in small increments. "We issued bonds essentially in increments of $20,000, which was very small, and the transaction costs associated with them are high," he said. "This is a very new type of financing, so most banks wouldn't look at it."

In hindsight, the program needed to have more participants, De Snoo said. "If it were done at a larger scale, the interest rate would go down, we would be able to serve a wait-list as people withdrew their applications," he said. When asked whether the city and its consultants knew that before going into the process, he responded, "We didn't know much at all. This had never been done before."

Mimi Frusha, chief operating officer for Renewable Funding LLC, an Oakland-based company that administered the program and purchased the bonds, said it could have obtained a better interest rate if there had been "250 to 300 participating properties."

De Snoo noted that larger-scale programs are underway in Sonoma County and Boulder County, Colorado. "We did a limited pilot; they did a market-sized program," he explained. The Sonoma County project, for example, attracted 1,200 applicants and 900 of them have taken advantage of the program, according to program spokeswoman Amy Bolten. In addition to being much bigger than the Berkeley pilot, Sonoma County funded a range of energy efficiency projects, including double-pane windows and solar hot water. Although the interest rate wasn't that much better — 7 percent — participants could opt to pay off the loan in five, ten, or twenty years, whereas in Berkeley, only the twenty-year option was available.

Berkeley has learned that it's too small to go ahead on its own, so there will be no local phase two of the program, De Snoo said, noting, however, that the state is putting together a larger program known as CaliforniaFIRST using federal stimulus funds. It would target the installation of 5,000 solar units and energy efficiency projects. If Alameda County participates, Berkeley residents will be able to take advantage of it, he said.

Despite the small number of participants in Berkeley's pilot program and the city's decision not to offer it to more Berkeley residents, De Snoo takes a glass-half-full approach. The pilot program created a heightened interest in solar and got people to go out and get their own financing — even if BerkeleyFIRST was too expensive for some property owners, he said.

Mayor Bates also remains enthusiastic about it. "I am delighted with what happened with BerkeleyFIRST," he said, contending that the small number of participants in the program "doesn't matter." "The idea of a pilot is to learn how to make the program better," he said, noting that among the lessons learned was that applicants should be better informed about the details before they sign up and that the program should allow participants to install a broader range of energy retrofits. He also pointed out that BerkeleyFIRST publicity caused other cities and counties to take an interest in putting together similar programs.

But solar energy proponent Councilman Kriss Worthington said the pilot program had problems, particularly the online application process. "You couldn't participate if you didn't have a computer, or couldn't get to a computer by 9 a.m. on the day it was introduced," he explained. Worthington furthermore noted that the program was geared to higher-income people — about 80 percent of households that participated in the program earned an annual income of more than $100,000, according to a city report evaluating the program. Worthington also said he's concerned that the cost of the program outweighed the benefits.

Indeed, Berkeley spent considerable amounts of public funds on the solar program. The effort received $235,000 in grants from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The city's general fund also contributed $70,000. In other words, Berkeley spent more than $23,000 per property owner — nearly the same as what it would have cost the city if it had handed the thirteen participants cash to install their own solar systems.

DeVries, meanwhile, also put in countless hours as Bates' staffer toward the effort, before becoming president of Renewable Funding LLC. When asked if it weren't a question of "a revolving door" for the city to have contracted with DeVries' company to put the program together, De Snoo said that was a consideration. But "frankly there were no other financial institutions that were willing to take this on. ... They were the only game in town," he said.

Although DeVries' company has a hand in designing the statewide project and is working with Boulder County, De Snoo said he thinks Renewable Funding isn't turning a profit. "If it turns out that they can make money off of this [kind of] project, there will be other companies in the market. Until that time comes, they may be the only game around. If they can show that they can make money with this, then we'll see the Wells Fargos, Banks of America — maybe some of the local banks get involved in this program, but right now they're not in it."

Renewable Funding COO Frusha sidestepped the question of overall profitability but wrote in an e-mail: "Berkeley was R&D [research and development] for Renewable Funding, where our first goal was to learn. We wanted to help the city develop and implement a very innovative program, and we were pleased to be a partner on the Berkeley pilot."

But at least one of the thirteen participants in the program is now apprehensive about it. Nigel Guest said BerkeleyFIRST came with some unknowns. On the plus side, Guest said he likes his solar system and is hoping that he'll be able to write off the increased property taxes on his income taxes. But he also doesn't like the fact that if he pays the system off early he will still have to pay the full twenty years of interest. And he said he didn't learn until late in the process that the bank would put a lien on his home that will remain until the loan is paid off. He said he fears future lenders may look unfavorably at the lien. "I feel I'm still at risk," he said. "I just don't know." ●

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OAKLAND METER MAIDS TO SNAP PHOTOS

In a move that may cut down on the number of bogus parking tickets, parking officers will soon begin taking photos of cars before issuing citations.

By Phil Marshall

The story of Steve Schroeder's parking ticket nightmare is not unusual. Last year, he got what appears to have been a bogus ticket while parking in a legal spot near an Oakland BART station. And even though he has convincing evidence that the ticket should never have been issued, Schroeder is on the hook for a $169 fine. The reason? He didn't properly follow the city's guilty-until-proven-innocent appeals process.

However, a little-noticed decision last week by the city council could result in fewer stories like Schroeder's. As part of a $900,000-a-year contract awarded to a private company to handle the city's parking ticket collection process, Oakland parking meter attendants will begin snapping photos of cars when they write tickets to help ensure that the citations are legitimate.

The handheld electronic devices are part of a top-down overhaul of the parking division's collections system, which has been widely criticized over the years for being inefficient. The contract also includes provisions to outfit the Parking Citation Assistance Center with new computer programs that will expedite its ability to process and review tickets.

Although the number of bogus parking citations issued in Oakland is unclear, there have long been indications that the problem is widespread. Councilwoman Jean Quan said she hopes the new system at a minimum will facilitate an easier appeals process. "I'll have to tell you, in my office, I would guess, 15 to 20 percent of the complaints I get from my constituents every week are about how slow we are processing ticket appeals," she said.

The city's parking division, meanwhile, also hopes that the new system will enable parking meter officers to prove the legitimacy of citations, thereby reducing the number of people who appeal their fines. "When you have the picture right there on the ticket, how can you then say it's not you," explained Noel Pinto, director of Oakland's city parking division.

The system by ACS State and Local Solutions, the city's new private contractor, could boost Oakland's parking ticket collection rate by up to 10 percent. That would mean an extra $2.7 million in annual revenues for the cash-strapped city. The system is expected to be installed in about two months.

However, the city may have to overcome one roadblock before motorists start seeing camera-toting attendants on Oakland streets. That's because a rival private contractor, Duncan Solutions, has indicated that it might sue. At a recent council committee meeting, company officials claimed that Oakland didn't give them a fair shake in the competitive bidding process.

Schroeder's odyssey shows the scope of the problem. It began last March when he parked near West Oakland BART in what appeared to be a legitimate spot. There weren't any signs around or even painted curbs. Yet when he returned to his car he was shocked to find a citation stating, "When appropriate signs are in place giving notice thereof, no person shall park any vehicle at any time on *any street*, or part of *any street*, so posted." Mysteriously, his was the only car on the street with a ticket.

The handheld electronic devices are part of an overhaul of the division's collections system.

A few days later, Schroeder wrote a letter to city parking officials, explaining their mistake. But in a July 31 response, the city said he was still liable for the ticket. The letter also informed him that he could request an appeals hearing, but needed to enclose the amount due as a deposit. Schroeder was bewildered and thought the city was making a mistake. He was also worried that he wouldn't get his money back.

So instead of requesting the hearing, he took pictures of the street where he was cited. The pictures clearly showed that there are not any "No Parking" signs and that cars on the same street had not been ticketed. But after sending the photos to the parking division, he received a notice that the fine had gone up to $130 and failure to pay would result in his case being referred to a collections agency.

Outraged, he called up the citation assistance center and spoke with one of their representatives who said it was possible that the city hadn't even opened his August letter and reviewed his photos because the department was badly backlogged. Finally, in December, he received a letter from a collections agency. He owed $169.

Indeed, Schroeder's August 12 photographs had been ignored. According to the parking division's computer record of the case, Schroeder's appeal had been considered closed in July when he chose not to request a hearing, and so his photographs came too late to prompt further review. Parking director Pinto said a veteran parking enforcement supervisor had been sent out to the West Oakland BART station after Schroeder first contested his ticket and determined that it was issued correctly.

Pinto said he is not involved in the adjudication of citations, but added that he trusted the enforcement supervisor's judgment. He also admitted that the photographs, which were on file, looked curious but said sometimes people take pictures that misrepresent the situation. Of course, the same can also be true of parking-enforcement personnel.

Several weeks ago, this reporter went to check where Schroeder was ticketed and found that there are no parking signs anywhere in sight. Indeed, it seemed impossible that a veteran enforcement supervisor could have missed the mistake. But then late last week, after interviewing Pinto for this story, a "no parking" sign suddenly appeared near where Schroeder had parked and there were no longer any other cars parked nearby. ●

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And finally, how do you solve a problem like straight white men?

So far in his career, Kamau has, according to Comedy Central, told the first joke about Barack Obama. He has spent the past three years ending racism in about an hour through his solo show "The W. Kamau Bell Curve" which enjoyed a long run in San Francisco, had [illegible] success in Oakland and Berkeley (several times) and played to full houses this past summer at the New York International Fringe Festival. And this May "The Curve" will return to New York City as a featured part of TerraNova Collective's 7th Annual SoloNova Festival. Kamau's been called "politically in the mold of comedians like Dave Chappelle and Margaret Cho" by the SF Weekly.

Much like Kamau's solo show, the "Blacktastic Black History Month Blacktacular... black!" will combine slides, video clips, stand-up comedy and personal stories for a mix that Kamau has perfected.

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Program C (Mar 11 & Mar 13 eve): Judith Jamison, with Robert Battle and Rennie Harris/*Love Stories*, set to the music of Stevie Wonder; Jamison/*Hymn*, set to music by Robert Ruggieri and libretto by Anna Deavere Smith; Ailey/*Revelations*

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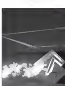

Detail from *Russian Mind* by Nate Boyce

CULTURE SPY

THE RAW VIDEO

Cartune Xprez makes a static art form go live

By Rachel Swan

Video became part of the fine arts canon in the 1960s, when Greenwich Village artists began shooting footage on their Sony CV-2400 Video Rovers and other Portapak devices. At the time, even the most industrious among them were producing fairly crude forms — like the blinking dots featured in "Noisefields," a 1974 project by Steina and Woody Vasulka. Seen today, "Noisefields" shows video at its most elemental stage. A dot pulses and changes color while blue static zaps in the background. The pulsing accelerates. The sound effects resemble those of an overworked household appliance. In its totality, "Noisefields" comprises eleven minutes and sixteen seconds of mind-bending, headache-inducing, dot-flickering bliss. In 1974, it was epic.

"They were experimenting with video technology in a way that dealt with the inherent properties of the medium," said Nate Boyce, a 27-year-old Art Institute grad who cites the Vasulkas as predecessors. Boyce dredges up the old Vasulka clip on his laptop and plays a short snippet. He says the Vasulkas came from a line of artists who used synthesizers to combine sounds and images, usually in a coarse, flat, pixilated way. "This was pretty influential to me when I first started making video. I was interested in dealing with video on the level of its raw, basic materiality."

Boyce is anything but "raw" or "basic." He's a metalhead-turned-technoid who turned his computer into a small cottage industry. Boyce works a couple days a week at a produce market and spends the rest of his time making videos. He's a judicious social networker. Since moving to San Francisco from his hometown of Kansas City, Boyce has collaborated with a bevy of well-respected electronic musicians and visual artists — among them Matmos, Eats Tapes, and the Brooklyn-based producer Daniel Lopatin, aka Oneohtrix Point Never. Boyce is part of a new school of video makers with psychedelic imagery and lofty intellectual goals (namely, to subvert what Boyce calls "the politics of illusionism"). These artists resemble their forebears in some ways, but they're a lot hipper, and a lot more in tune with pop culture. At present, they're trying to take video art out of the rarefied museum world and bring it to the rest of us.

Such populist goals led a Portland artist named Peter Burr to form Cartune Xprez, a touring variety show that combines experimental video with live music — the next one, held this Saturday at LoBot Gallery in West Oakland, features one of Boyce's installations. Burr launched the project in 2006 with friends Christopher Doulgeris and Cassandra C. Jones, whom he knew from Carnegie Mellon University. The three decided to curate work from within their community of artist friends, which includes renowned animators like Martha Colburn and Paper Rad. Most of these artists are moored in a certain fine arts tradition, said Burr. Their films might look "vaguely narrative," but the narrative isn't supporting the architecture of the film (as it is in a movie like *Avatar*). Boyce's *Russian Mind*, which will screen at LoBot, is a series of polygonal forms interpenetrating each other (i.e. shape sex) over background music (composed by Oneohtrix Point Never) that resembles that of an Eighties-era Toshiba commercial. "It's really different from exploring the narrative of a cube that's lost," said Burr. "It's working on a totally different level."

Yet for all their certitude about the medium being the message, these new filmmakers don't have the same "high art" pretensions as their predecessors — and they don't behave in the traditional manner of counter-culturals. Instead of forming their own "marginal" scene, new-school artists like to poach, twist, sample, cannibalize, remix, and steal from the mainstream. Paper Rad applies new storylines to the template of *Gumby*. Boyce borrows 2D images from Frank Stella paintings, and sets them in a 3D landscape. Berkeley artist Parker Ito will contribute a flag made with all sixteen million shades in the RGB color gamut. He captured the whole gradient from Photoshop, turned it into a video, and called the piece "RGB Forever." Martha Colburn, who recently became fixated on reconstructing the whole mythology of US history, rips all of her source material from pop culture. "They're using techniques of collage, appropriation, reconstituting," Burr said. "They're retelling stories."

The first Cartune Xprez took place at the Drake Hotel in Toronto, and included films by Michael Bell-Smith (geometric shapes and architectural forms), Philippe Blanchard (fast food and accelerated culture), Bobby Ciraldo and Frankie Martin (the aptly titled "One Minute Rave"), Colburn (sexuality in Mexican wrestling), James Duesing (a digital-age fantasy in which all the industrialists are put on reservations), Takeshi Murata (psychedelic Rorschach drawings), Paper Rad (adventures of "Little Dude" in a pixilated Neverland), and others. Burr and Doulgeris contributed a short piece under the auspice of "Hooliganship," their art duo that doubles as a party band. (It was just a little to the left of Mark Mothersbaugh.) Given the artists' sensibility, it made sense to display their work in what was, for all intents and purposes, an appropriated space (the hotel bar and lobby). In subsequent months, Cartune Xprez moved around the country, presenting shows in basements, warehouse galleries, storefronts, and proper movie theaters. It toured Europe for three months. After descending on Oakland with this month's new iteration — subtitled "Future Television" — the curators will proceed to the silent movie theater in Los Angeles and wind up at Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum.

It's actually quite odd for videographers to band together and screen their work in a performing arts format, said Burr. After all, the art form is inherently static. It's born from machines, and these days it's entirely computer-generated. A modern video artist can run his entire operation on a laptop, disseminate all his work via YouTube, and never leave the temperate environs of his favorite cafe. To have an actual "rig" with gear and wiring is to fetishize ancient equipment. Boyce is one such fetishist. He pulls up a picture on his laptop, showing the desk of his home studio. It's a big tangle of wires, synthesizers, video processing devices and consumer-grade hardware. "I'm interested in things being recursively processed," said Boyce, characterizing himself as an analog guy in a digital world. Well, kind of.

Burr, who teaches yoga classes in Portland, subscribes to a more collectivist philosophy. He often describes things in terms of the "energy" they emit. He has a dicey relationship with new technologies. "The computer is this mode of production that creates accessibility," he said. "My laptop is my production company, but it doubles as my video jukebox, and it doubles as my shopping mall. YouTube is part of that — it's my home entertainment system." But it's also alienating. "There are themes that come up about solitude and isolation that are being dealt with in variety of ways," said Burr. "This project seems to be coming out of a certain dark energy that I've been feeling."

Transmitting that "energy" into something spontaneous and animate can be tricky, but Burr sees it as part of his artistic mission. He says that if you dig deep enough, you could probably find a bootleg of the show online somewhere. But it wouldn't be the same. ●

Event Details:
Cartune Xprez shows
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$5 FRIDAY FEB 26 @ BAM/PFA

EXPANDED CINEMA

7:30 PM ★ GREGG KOWALSKY
PAUL CLIPSON ★ KEITH EVANS
PROGRAMMED BY BAM/PFA FILM CURATORS KATHY GERITZ & STEVE SEID
DOORS 6 PM ★ KALX DJ CITIZEN ZAIN ★ CASH BAR

GALLERIES OPEN UNTIL 9 PM
JAMES CASTLE: A RETROSPECTIVE ★ AHMET ÖĞÜT: EXPLODED CITY ★ THOM FAULDERS: BAMSCAPE

FRIDAY NIGHT FILM @ PFA THEATER
$9.50, add'l feature $4; free admission to L@TE with same-Friday PFA ticket

RESTORED VAULT PRINTS!
SO THIS IS LOVE
7 PM Frank Capra (U.S., 1928) 60 mins. Bruce Loeb on piano.

THE BITTER TEA OF GENERAL YEN
8:30 PM Starring Barbara Stanwyck! Frank Capra (U.S., 1933) 88 mins.

L@TE ON MARCH 5: COMPOSER CARL STONE AKA "THE KING OF SAMPLING"

CAFE MUSE OPEN FOR DINNER! 5-7:30 PM

GET MORE: bampfa.berkeley.edu/late
BAM/PFA: 2626 Bancroft Way PFA Theater: 2575 Bancroft Way

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

L@TE
FRIDAY NIGHTS @
BAM/PFA

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Frank Krmel's Blue Thunder.

Here Come the Monsters

Frank Krmel and Blue Thunder compete for supremacy at Saturday's Monster Truck Jam

Before Frank Krmel seized the wheel of Blue Thunder, he drove a different 1,500-horsepower truck called Donkey Kong. Before Donkey Kong, he manhandled a rig called Hot Wheels, and before that he drove Del Scorcho. At 31 years old, Krmel (pronounced Kromel) is a big league monster-truck driver with five consecutive world finals under his belt and eight years spent behind the wheels of a 10,000 pound vehicle. He can do stop wheelies by jumping over an obstacle at high speed and using the bounce to send his truck vertical, standing on two wheels. He can spin doughnuts, kicking up clouds of dust that would blind anyone within a ten foot radius. He's been known to jump distances of 100 to 125 feet, and to get a truck up to thirty feet off the ground. He's scaled rows of cars, vans, buses, and giant dirt obstacles. Krmel's most gut curdling, hair-raising, heart-stopping trick — the sky wheely — requires him to ram into a crushed car, slam his foot on the throttle, and propel the truck up on its tail.

Such high stamina maneuvers require self-discipline and derring-do. Krmel had the latter by nature. The former he honed over years on the race track. "I come from a motor sports background," Krmel said, explaining that his dad raced hydroplanes and that he grew up in a part of Detroit where dragsters, go-carts, and dirt bikes were all the rage. Krmel started on a go-cart at age fifteen, then did a little stock car racing. A few years later, he joined the crew of a Michigan-based monster truck called the Avenger as a mechanic. At that time, he still hoped to get a job in the straight world. "I was going to be a schoolteacher," he said. "I was all set to have a regular job. Then I started working on monster trucks and realized that's what I would want to do."

The life he chose is no joke. Krmel does about thirty Monster Jams a year, competing throughout the United States, Europe, and Latin America. He races trucks with 800 pound tires, giant dragster engines, and fuel tanks that carry twenty gallons of gas (most drivers fill up before the show and throw in another five gallons during intermission). He competes against multi-time world champion trucks like Grave Digger and Maximum Destruction ("the Yankees of monster trucking," Krmel said), and a whole slew of other formidable foes: Bounty Hunter, El Toro Loco, Monster Mutt, The Patriot, Obsession. January through March is the equivalent of monster-truck playoff season, when anyone would destroy anyone else. Krmel is sanguine. "We all want to beat each other on the tracks," he said. "Behind the scenes we're friends." The **Monster Truck Jam** comes to **Oakland Coliseum** (7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland) on Saturday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m. $7.50-$30, $125 for all access pass. MonsterJam.com

— *Rachel Swan*

To share this story type: ebx.ly/bluethunder

ATTRACTIONS

Oakland Artisan Marketplace Featuring handmade jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, paintings, photography, bath salts, clothing, floral arrangements, greeting cards, and more. Info: 510-238-4926. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Redwood Valley Railway Twelve-minute scenic journey by steam train through the redwoods of Tilden Regional Park. Info: 510-548-6100. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. $2 per ticket, or $10 for five. Tilden Regional Park, entrance off Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-525-2233.

University of California Botanical Garden See plants you won't find anywhere else — more than 12,000 in total. Free Docent tours Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 1:30 p.m., open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission on the first Thursday of every month. Daily. UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.berkeley.edu.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

Berkeley Youth Alternatives Annual Date Feed Thu., Feb. 25, 7-8 p.m. $40. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1255 Allston Wy., Berkeley. 510-845-9010. BYAOnline.org.

Friday Night Fire-One: Drinks, Demos & Discounts Open studios and opportunity to visit with experts in welding, blacksmithing, and glass flameworking. Fri., Feb. 26, 6:30-9:30 p.m. free. The Crucible, 1260 7th St., Oakland. 510-444-0919. TheCrucible.org.

What's It Worth? — Bonus Antiques Appraisal Faire Visit AlbanyCares... Sat., Feb. 27, 2-5 p.m. $20 for two items, $10 per additional item. Albany Middle School, 1259 Brighton Ave., Albany. 510-558-0647. www.albany.k12.ca.us/ams/

KIDS

Art Oakland for Children with Disabilities Ages 8-18 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and enjoy an artistic environment in a group setting. Maximum five students per class. Call to reserve. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon. $5. MAD Art Center, 551 23rd St., Oakland. 510-470-0808. MADArt.org.

Children's Fairyland Weekend Activities Featuring arts and crafts, puppet shows, children's theater shows, the theme of the day and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m., Sundays, 11 a.m. $6. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

Build My World A creativity Artspace for kids grades 7-12. Please preregister. Ongoing, start anytime. Fridays, 4:15-6 p.m. $15/session or $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Cuentos en Español Cuentos and rhymes told in Spanish, with vocabulary-building games and crafts from Spanish-speaking cultures around the world, and refreshments. First Wednesday of every month, 10 a.m. First Saturday of every month, 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0632.

Early Literacy Night Stories, crafts, and tips for young readers. First Monday of every month, 5:30-6:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

El Cerrito Recreation Department Go to El-Cerrito.org/recreation for information on the city's parks, classes, recreation, youth services, senior Antiques Project REACH, and more. Daily.

Emmaline BIG The Girls Inc. program is for girls who wish to earn community service hours they need to graduate from high school. Participants are trained in friendship and leadership skills, and then put those skills into action by working with the younger girls at the Meyers Center. Teens develop their own lesson plans and activities, then sign language, singing French songs, name poems, and trust games. Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Girls Inc., Meyers Center, Alameda. 510-523-1345. GirlsIncIslandCity.org.

PICKS

Gina Yashere

Proclaiming herself the first British comic on HBO's *Def Comedy Jam*, **Gina Yashere** sallied across the stage in high heels and a black wife-beater with a United Kingdom flag logo. Beneath it were the words "Black Jack." Yashere is one of the saltiest stand-up comedians on the circuit today. The daughter of Nigerian immigrants, she was raised in London and has the cockney accent to prove it. In fact, Yashere does spot-on imitations of at least three different dialects — including a self-parody, in which she tries to use American rap slang and gets called for it. Since debuting at Edinburgh Fringe in 1996, Yashere has perfected her bits on hair, fraught family relationships, and her childhood in Woodgreen, England ("You know you live in a shit area when you can read the registration number on a police helicopter"). Her acts are absolutely infectious. Yashere performs Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 25-28 at **Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse** (5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton). $20-$30. TommyTs.com — *Rachel Swan*

Infecta

Vanessa Woods is the filmmaker we all want to be when we grow up. She graduated from the MFA film program at San Francisco Art Institute, won oodles of awards, and screened throughout Europe. She dresses lively. And she's the centerpiece of a hip art gallery event this Sunday, Feb. 27, which also features live music, food, and poetry. The event kicks off at **WE Artspace** (768 40th St., Oakland) with drinks and a DJ set by **Don't Tell Mom**. It continues at **MacArthur b arthur** (4030 Martin Luther King Blvd., Oakland) where Woods will screen three new films. The night concludes with poetry and dessert at **Royal Nonesuch Gallery** (4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). By combining forces, these three art spaces turn multi-sensory entertainment into an edifying experience. 5-9 p.m., $10-$20. WeArtspace.com — *RS*

A screen shot from Vanessa Woods' We, Clandestine Species.

Couples Relay 2010

The Sunday brunch thing is sooo 2009. On Sunday, Feb. 28, the Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders host an event that will make you earn those blueberry waffles: the 32nd annual **Couples Relay**, which will accept any pair of participants willing to complete five-kilometer laps (that's 3.1 miles) around Lake Merritt. The race, which benefits the nonprofit organization Team-up for Youth, is open to same- or opposite-gender couples — but both will have to haul themselves out of bed well before noon to take part. **568 Bellevue Ave., Oakland**. 9 a.m. $16-$35. LMJS.org — *Kibby Kleiman*

[illegible] [illegible] and Wii Games on the big screen. Wed., Feb. 24, 2 p.m. free. Hayward Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 27300 Patrick Ave., Hayward. 510-782-2155. Library.hayward-ca.gov.

The Great Smoothie [illegible] Smoothie-making competition for kids ages 12-18, with prizes. Wed., Feb. 24, 1-3 p.m. free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.hayward-ca.gov.

Book Book Group A new reading group for [illegible] who love adults. Last Sunday of every month, 11 a.m. [illegible] 5430 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. [illegible]

Karate [illegible] for Girls Certified instructor [illegible] teaches [illegible] just for girls ages 10-16, combining elements of tae-bo, yoga, karate, and kung fu into a noncompetitive, nonaggressive workout. Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m., $15 drop-in rate; $100 for unlimited classes/month. 510-681-2400, AlbanyKarateforKids.com. Albany Karate for Kids, 1240 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-3033.

Lakeview [illegible] Facilitated by [illegible] Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Pleasant Puppet [illegible] Sing-Along With [illegible] at the [illegible] Puppet [illegible] Sundays, 6:15 p.m. $4.95 for kids; $2 for each additional sibling; free for adults and babies. Sadie Boy's Cafe, 4280 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-7318. [illegible]

[illegible] Dance for Kids Beginning [illegible] Indian classical dance. Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. [illegible] Kala Mandir College of Indian Classical Arts, 8134 Delaware St., Berkeley. 510-913-2447. [illegible]

Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District The parks service offers health and fitness courses in everything from kickboxing to fencing, a full schedule of aquatics (including water polo), golf, tennis, dance, classes and seminars for kids of all ages, and more. Daily. PleasantHillRec.com.

Book Buddies Teens are invited to join the group that reviews books, plans programs, and generally advises Teen Services. Wheelchair accessible. Please do not wear scents to public programs. To request a sign-language interpreter, real-time captioning, materials in large print or Braille, or other accommodations for this program, call 510-981-6192 or TTY 510-548-1240 at least five working days prior. First Tuesday of every month, 4:30-6 p.m. 510-981-6121. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] Thursdays Music, [illegible] games, and movies. Thursdays, 2-5 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] 3501 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

Wild [illegible] Children's [illegible] student-staged music and magic show. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Wildlife Theater On Saturdays, hear a story and meet an animal. On Sundays, meet more animals and learn cool nature facts. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m. Sundays, 1:45 p.m. free with zoo admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

LGBT

Bisexual Women's Support Group All bisexual and bi-questioning women (including transgendered women) [illegible] Info: [illegible] Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Dress-Up Wednesdays A social gathering where transgender folk, cross-dressers, and their admirers are welcome. Enjoy snacks and a large selection of clothing for the woman in you. Dress up, [illegible] take photos, and get [illegible] Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. $15-20. [illegible] 40978 [illegible] Fremont, 510-658-4750. [illegible]

East Bay Frontrunners Join the group for noncompetitive runs and walks, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Web site for weekly locations. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. free. EastBayFrontRunners.org. [illegible] 2111 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-8740.

Express 20s Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their twenties. Thursdays, 8-10 p.m. $5-$20 suggested donation. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

HIV Positive Therapy Group [illegible] sign-up required. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. 510-548-8283 ext. 240. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Lesbians of [illegible] group Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. $5-$20 suggested donation. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

DOOR Youth Group Drop-in group for LGBT youth. Tuesdays, [illegible]; Wednesdays, youth leadership; Thursdays, hot topics/guest speakers; Fridays, snack, movies/video games. Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m., Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m., Thursdays, 4-6 p.m., Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Free. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Married and Formerly Married Gay/Bi Men of Berkeley Group Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m. [illegible] Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

[illegible] Trivia Quiz [illegible] for [illegible] Tuesdays, 9 p.m. free. Beckett's, 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790. BeckettsIrishPub.com.

Brainteaser Trivia Quiz Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. free. Maggie McGarry's, 1353 Grant Ave., San Francisco. 415-399-9020. MaggieMcGarrys.com.

Discussion Salon Everyone is invited to participate in a wide range of topics, including [illegible], education, green laughter, and [illegible] Info: [illegible] First and Third Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. free. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

Drinking Liberally Political discussion group. Third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m., First Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., First Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

Fireside Stories at Tilden Park [illegible] a few nature stories and share your own tale. Sat., Feb. 27, 3-4 p.m., 510-544-2233. ebparks.org.

Kensington Library Knitting Club The [illegible] yarns on a monthly basis. First [illegible] of every month, 7 p.m. Kensington Branch Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 510-524-3043.

[illegible] Game Night Hosted by Justin & [illegible] Mondays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. free. [illegible] Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5468. [illegible]

Laugh Club Medical research has proven that laughter is good for you, so shake down for a half-hour laugh session. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. $1 facility use fee for residents; $2 for nonresidents. 925-306-4580. San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon.

The Living Philosophers Group A program of discussion groups. Fridays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. [illegible] North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

[illegible] Singles Dance Society of Single Professionals [illegible] For info, call 415-507-9962 or visit [illegible] Fri., Feb. 26, 8 p.m. $20. [illegible] 2142 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-938-4240.

[illegible] Support Group Welcomes All Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m. free. Imani Community Church, 3300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-333-5401. [illegible]

Pub Trivia with Jenny and a $ jackpot. Wednesdays, 9 p.m. free. [illegible] Lounge, 2200 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

Walnut Creek Socrates Cafe A program [illegible] Every third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. [illegible] Cafe La Scala, 1219 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7779.

More Listings Online

Find hundreds of up-to-date Arts listings at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

[illegible] Runners For info, visit BayAreaRoadrunners.org. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m., Mondays, 6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $40/one for 5 classes per week; $50/one for [illegible] Live Oak Fitness, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

East Bay Ultimate [illegible] Wednesday [illegible] recreational games of [illegible] at Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex and San Pablo Fields (2000 Mabel St., Berkeley). For info, visit [illegible] Tuesdays, Thursdays, 5-11 p.m. Continues through Feb. 25. $50. Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex, 400 Gilman St., Berkeley.

Ladies' Night Special tee times [illegible] for women. Info: 510-848-7373 ex. 222. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. $10 to walk, $25 for a cart, $5 of each purchase will benefit the American Heart [illegible] Tilden Park Golf Course, Grizzly Peak and Shasta Rd., Berkeley. 510-548-7373. [illegible]

Lunchtime [illegible] Gym [illegible] Head over to [illegible] Gym, 4144 East Ave., Livermore, for a lunchtime special. $50 for a 20-visit pass, or $2.50 per visit. Info: 925-373-8730. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

[illegible] Ladies' Golf Group Membership includes organized play days weekly (Wednesdays), [illegible] Wednesdays, 8 a.m. [illegible] Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland. 510-569-5555. [illegible]

Metropolitan Golf Links Pitching and Bunker Clinic Learn the secrets to [illegible] Call 510-569-5555 [illegible] Saturdays, 3-30-5 p.m. $30. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland. 510-569-5555. [illegible]

Midnight Soccer [illegible] Second and Fourth Saturday of every month, 11:45 p.m. free. Oakland [illegible] Park, MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

[illegible] Weekly [illegible] [illegible] Mondays, [illegible] Oakland. 510-595-5344. [illegible]

Rock-N-Bowl Mondays, 10 p.m., $1.50 per game. Albany Bowl, 540 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-8818. AlbanyBowl.biz.

Rusty Bindings Ski Club Weekly Barfaday Recreational skiers, snowboarders, and other snow buffs welcome. Year-round [illegible] Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. RustyBindings.com. The Greenery Restaurant, 1551 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-931-1211.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Golden State Warriors vs. [illegible] NBA basketball. Thu., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Golden State Warriors vs. Denver Nuggets NBA basketball. [illegible] 7:30 p.m. $10-$250. 1-888-GSW-HOOP. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Golden State Warriors vs. Detroit Pistons NBA basketball. Sat., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. $10-$250. 1-888-GSW-HOOP. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

UC Berkeley Men's Basketball vs. Arizona at Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley campus. Thu., Feb. 25, 6 p.m. $10-$22. [illegible] calbears.cstv.com/ Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 800-GO-BEARS.

UC Berkeley Men's Basketball vs. Arizona State at Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley campus. Sat., Feb. 27, noon. $10-$22. 800-GO-BEARS, calbears.collegesports.com/ Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-8686.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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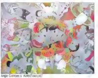


Angie Crabtree's "Kaleidoscopic"

Roaming in the Gloaming

Sometimes, look on the dark side of life.

Things go great, we get cocky, and then the gods smite the economy. *Works That Disturb the Moonlight*, the poetic title of this show, invokes the shadow that underlies the daytime world and the rational mind, and it's an apt description of the ethos of these eight young artists — **Angie Crabtree, Julia C. S. Davis, Igor Josifov, Kadet Kuhne, Annie McKnight, Joshua Martinez, Maja Ruznic,** and **Kim Ye** — who undoubtedly consider rationality of the Wall Street variety somewhat less grand than advertised.

In *The Nude: A Study in Ideal Form*, Kenneth Clark examines how art embodies variously beauty, energy, pathos, and ecstasy; he also describes a recurrent alternative tradition representing human bodies as "pale, defenseless, [and] un-self supporting," like "roots and bulbs, pulled up into the light." In this show, human beings here are immobilized or ambiguous and intellectual hierarchies are toppled. Crabtree makes graphite renderings on gray-toned pastel paper or canvas depicting deformed babies (conjoined twins like Mohamud and Hassein, or Vanni and Veeno) merged with cacti or carnivorous plants that loom like phallic mushrooms or leafy fernlings. Her equally provocative installation, "Crucified in Comfort," surrounds a sprawling male, naked but for sweatsocks, with a half-dozen attendant ones, their heads replaced by heart-shaped pairs of antler-like spiked leaves.

Davis takes similar freedoms with biology in her specimen photographs of dead animals ("Posterior insert Balaenoptera musculus") and live humans ("Seated erotic Homo Sapiens"). McKnight crafts a pair of necklaces from preserved mouse bodies. Ruznic makes small paintings in oil on panel that depict round-headed, gnomelike figures (seven of which she has entitled "Bastards") in a painterly, expressionist style that partially obscures the figures but also renders them mysterious. The protagonist of "The Infinite Secret" (or "The Infinite Search") is spritelike in form, or wears a costume or disguise — it's impossible to say. The prostrate figure in "Tired II" is similarly ambiguous, suggesting duck or insect, and Ruznic's ink drawings of groups are given mordant titles like "The Family" and "Our Secret."

Ye's latex and cloth figure sculptures (which are also costumes worn in performances) make a commandingly creepy Cronenbergian statement: half garment and half cast skin, with scarred/wealed flesh, lumpy ganglions, intestinal tentacles/prostheses, and clustered eggs/turds/antibodies, they update the surrealist wardrobe's toed shoes and breasted nighties for the Burroughsian Interzone age of iPod people interfacing with their talking insect typewriters. *Works That Disturb the Moonlight* runs through March 27 at **Alphonse Berber Gallery** (2546 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). 510-549-9492 or AlphonseBerber.com.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

To share this story go to: ebx.ly/Moonlight

ART GALLERIES

57th Street Gallery: Overdevelopment: A Celebration of Modern History Featuring work by Alton Hughes, Malik Seneferu, K-Dub, Carvel Jay, Mayen McMillan, Milton SRO, Curtis Riley, Lavelle Allen, Ufi Petrel, Michelle Bramby, Dionne Carter, Stefo Lutz, Suzanne Long, and Michael McDonough. Through Feb. 27. 5701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-654-0838. 57thStreetGallery.com.

Actual Cafe: Getting There Photography by Christopher Hall. Featuring made-to-order arm warmers by It Spoke Tailor. Through Feb. 28. free. 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-735-0018. ActualCafe.com.

Windows Block Windows Gallery: Re-formed!!: Found Object Art Through Feb. 28. 2118 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-968-7546.

Alphonse Berber Gallery: Works That Disturb the Moonlight Show centering on the grotesque and the sublime, featuring work by Annie McKnight, Angie Crabtree, Julia C.S. Davis, Joshua Martinez, Kim Ye, Igor Josifov, Maja Ruznic, and Kadet Kuhne. Through March 27. 2546 Bancroft Way. Through [illegible]

Bedford Gallery: [illegible]: Drawings, Paintings, Prints, and Tapestries by [illegible], Hung Liu, and Inez Storer Survey of works by exceptional Bay Area artists. Through April 11. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center: Process & Place: The Transformative Potential of Artist Residencies Featuring work by artists Amy Berk, [illegible], Anne Lambert, Mary Curtis Ratcliff, and [illegible], who all attended the same residency program in New Zealand. Through March 6. free. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

The Berkeley Art House and Cultural Center: Vintage Skates Photos Featuring photographs by William Hedgwood. Through Feb. 28. 2906 Shattuck Ave. Through [illegible]

Blankspace: I'm Sure; Artists' Process in Sale Featuring work by Alethea Beales, [illegible], Alex Gary, Helena Keeffe, Krystal Hickey, Theodora Paman, [illegible], Rachel Rubinson, Leah Rosenberg, [illegible], and Sheila [illegible]. Through March 14. **Newborn/Anywhere** A solo exhibition of new work by Stewart [illegible]. Through March 14. 6608 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. 510-547-6608. BlankspaceGallery.com.

Mateo Gallery: [illegible]: Solo exhibit of Karen Gallagher Printed and hand-drawn works made with an "alchemical" process. Through April 7. 455 17th St., Ste. 430, Oakland. [illegible]

Cal State East Bay Arts and Education Building: Annual Art Faculty Exhibition Featuring work by Karen Becker, Jennifer Brazelton, Lanier Graham, Malka Hoffman, Michael Henninger, Bryan Haggard, Phillip Hofstetter, Sarah [illegible], Philly Kavanaugh, Kirk LeClaire, Lisa Levine, Mark Levy, [illegible], Paula Pennie, James Sauer, [illegible], Lisa Solomon, Hal Standley, Gary Wear, and Shawn Wickham. Through Feb. 25. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3092.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary: A Thousand Ways to Miss the Ground Installations and 2D drawings by Mari Andrews and Sheila Ghidini comprising natural and man-made materials. Through March 20. free. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. 415-577-2531. ChandraCerrito.com.

The Compound: La-Lustre: Work by Barbara Holmes & Marie Reich Closing Tea: Sunday, March 14th, 3-6 p.m. Through March 14. **La-Lustre** Recycled materials by Barbara Holmes and Marie Reich. Through March 14. free. 6604 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-655-9019. TheCompoundGallery.com.

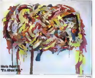
Crown Point Press: The Figure: A Group Exhibition Featuring work by Chris Ofili, Tom Burton, Amy Sillman, Edgar Bryan, [illegible], Francesco Clemente, June Felter, Eric Fischl, Robert Bechtle, Alex Katz, [illegible], Helena Almeida, David Salle, Wilbur Shain, and William T. Wiley. Through Feb. 27. free. 20 Hawthorne St., San Francisco. 415-974-6273. CrownPoint.com.

Studio Helena Center: The Lake Project: Photos by Stein Maisel Through May 21. **The Lake Project: Photographs by David Maisel** Photographs of Owens Lake, a 200 square mile body of water on the eastern

PICKS

Lo-Lustre

Lo-Lustre latex enamel paints are used for high abuse areas, so the title fits the work of Oakland recyclers/conceptualists **Barbara Holmes** and **Marie Reich**. Holmes has a fondness for absurd consumer goods (like an LP of grindhouse music replete with a bonus G-string) and the usage of nomenclature. In her *International Color Reference Series*, she presents the artifacts unaltered but for the addition of paint strips bearing comically appropriate color names: an immaculately dressed Jesus ("Celestial Glow"), a bronco rider ("American Bronze"), a blank plaque ("Hand Wood"). Reich collects objects and fabric, used clothing, and old clothing patterns. "[It] helps me take risks, as the materials don't cost anything," she said. Works like "Steppes," "Haircut Time," "Aretha," and "I'm Afraid Not" are loosely woven, wall-hung structures that seem to be melting or slipping back into chaos. [illegible] *Lo-Lustre* runs through March 14 at **The Compound Gallery** (6604 San Pablo Ave., Oakland). 510-655-9019 or TheCompoundGallery.com. — *DeWitt Cheng*



Marie Reich's "I'm Afraid Not."

DeWitt Cheng

Nowhere/Anywhere

Painter **Stewart Pittman** writes, "Modernism no longer has a single look ... and in 2009, any number of artists might cite the reductive, angular as a component of their practice. In a culture ... perpetually distracted by ... excess, it seems reasonable that artists would adopt a counteractive visual language." Art history is indeed a rich compost pile of visual elements, and half of Pittman's paintings, hard-edged with unaffected surfaces, clearly derive from geometric abstractionists like Ellsworth Kelly and Josef Albers. However, his interest in capturing the "walls, passageways, and windows" of Oakland's, *Nowhere/Anywhere* "anonymous, stark, and quiet," causes him to abandon mechanical perfection in works like "Swoop," "Phantom," and "Slumberous Bastard," featuring scumbled, uneven surfaces and a looser, hand-drawn (not taped) geometry. Are the elements inherently postmodern? The classicist Jekyll and the romantic Hyde are of two minds. ***Nowhere/Anywhere*** runs through March 14 at Blankspace Gallery (6608 San Pablo Ave., Oakland). 510-547-6608 or BlankspaceGallery.com. — *D.C.*

M&G

side of the Sierra Nevada. Through May 21. 2150 Worth Way, Berkeley.

[illegible] Gallery: Oddly Austin Oakland Reflections Photography exhibit. Through March 19. Free. 315 10th St., Oakland. 510-867-1380.

El Cerrito City Hall: Here and There: Selected Works by [illegible] Showcasing 2 and 3-D acrylic paintings. Through March 1. 10890 San Pablo Ave. El-Cerrito. El-Cerrito.org.

Expressions Gallery: The Modernists Featuring work by Sonia Melnikova-Raich. Through April 18. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

Float Gallery: Where Do I Go Meanwhile? Mark Wagner, Clayton Pixel and Salome C. [illegible] creative sculpture, paintings, and conceptual art. Saturday reception March 20, 6-9 p.m. March 1-April 10. Free. 1091 Calcot Pl., Oakland. 510-535-1702. TheFloatCenter.com.

Green Shelter Gallery: Winter Members Show With photography, paintings, ceramics, sculptures, greeting cards, decorative gourds, and jewelry. Through May 1. Free. 22654 Main St., Hayward. 510-538-2181. HaywardArts.org.

Shelter Community Art Gallery: Reflections Satellite show of "The Art of Living Silence." Featuring work by Abbo [illegible] Shelter and Vasil Wright. Through March 18. 5740 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. WCRC.org.

Johansson Projects: Apollo II Featuring works by David Tradtscen and Heather Lewis. Through March 20. Free. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

Joyce Gordon Gallery: For Oakland Only: A Celebration of Gordon Afro-centric exhibition and performance event featuring music, dance, monologues, and readings. Through March 28. $6-$10 for performances. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Julie's [illegible] the Garden: Strength & Memory Paintings by Karen McCloud. Through March 7. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-3385. JuliesBea.com.

Kala Art Institute: Kala TGIT (Thank God It's Thursday) Monthly event with live jazz, work by Oakland [illegible] local vendors, raffles, demonstrations, and affordable art. Last Thursday of every month, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Continues through June 1. $5. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

Le Petit Oakland Center: Stephens Art Exhibit Drawings by Juana Callahan. Opening reception Sunday Feb. 28, 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 28-March 28. Free. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. [illegible].org.

Lunch Stop Cafe: [illegible] Three-dimensional paintings by Judith White Marcellino. Reception Thurs., March 8, 4-6 p.m. Through March 28. 831 [illegible] St., First Floor, Oakland. 510-811-5882.

Mercury 20 Gallery: Plugged In: 1979-2009 Works by Dona Meeker. Through Feb. 21. Free. **Don't Look Here** Sculpture, painting, and mixed media by Margaret Chenoby, Kathleen King, Jill Mayeron, and Charlie Milgrim. Through Feb. 28. Free. **Works on Paper** Featuring work by Jo Ann Biagini, Chala Harding, Patricia Gillespie, Maya Kabat, Jamie Morgan, Laura van Duren, Anna Vaughan, and Joan Vines. Through Feb. 28. Free. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-864-1185. Mercury20.com.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Offices: Paintings from Here and Far Paintings by Seamus Berkeley. Through April 15. Free. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-464-7713.

NIAD Art Center: Animals Everywhere Group exhibition featuring paintings inspired by the animal kingdom. Through March 19. Free. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

Oakopolis Creativity Center: The World Turned Inside Out Photography exhibit featuring work by Noelle Lusano and James Melton. Art Murmur reception March 5, 7-10 p.m. Through March 13. Free. 441 25th St., Oakland.

Photolab Gallery: Ordinary Oakland and Selected Portraits Sheila Rowberry presents black & white and color photographs. Through Feb. 27. Free. 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-644-1400. Photolabmoney.com/gallery.htm.

Pro Arts Gallery: [illegible] Salon: Indie Yeh @ Pro Arts Through Feb. 20. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

Royal NoneSuch Gallery: Lending Library Group exhibition curated by Bena Stone, featuring posts and materials from Anthony Rescenco, Lydia Greer, Rosanna Holman, Jessie Paglen, Matthew Ross, [illegible] and Andrew Roths. Through March 5. Free. **Social Life Crisis, A Cinematic Journey From One Traumatic Transition to Oakland** Series curated by AnaLuisa Padilla begins with a screening of *Stories of Beverly Hills*. Sat., Feb. 27, 3-5 p.m. Free. **TaPoots** Three-gallery art walk at Royal NoneSuch, [illegible] Gallery, and WE Artspace. Featuring poetry by Robin Blyes and a film by Vanessa Woods. Kicks off with music and appetizers at WE Artspace. Sat., Feb. 28, 5-8 p.m. $10-$20 donation. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. RoyalNoneSuchGallery.com.

[illegible] Gallery: Karen [illegible] Solo Show Through March 28. 1720 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-1083. [illegible].com.

Sight School: Selected Works: New Glass by Brandon Wolff [illegible] Unveiling his memorial for a deceased pet cat. Through March 6. Free. 5031 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. SightSchool.com.

Slate Gallery: Modernism: Expressionism New work by Isa I. Barker and Cheryl Julien. Through Feb. 28. Free. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Studios + Gallery: Stuck Up on Meat and Moon [illegible] Drawings by Casey Jex Smith. Through March 14. Free. **Ectoplasmic Response** Video installation by Barry Anderson. Through March 14. Free. **The [illegible]** Installations by Sonya [illegible]. Through March 14. Free. 500 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2011. SwarmGallery.com.

Townsend Center: Craig Nagasawa Presenting painting, photographs, and collage. Through May 1. 220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-643-9670. TownsendCenter.Berkeley.edu.

We Artspace: Body Mind [illegible] Ashley Madsen, Becky Greer, Sarah Hanna and Erika Mensur exhibit 2D and 3D work. Through Feb. 28. Free. 758 40th St., Oakland. WeArtspace.com.

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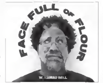
THEATER & DANCE



W. Kamau Bell

Face Full of Flour

It's hard to do left-wing political humor without devolving into platitudes and homilies, especially when most of your jokes center on race — and most of your race jokes are black and white. W. Kamau Bell is the rare guy who does it really, really well. So well, in fact, that he manages to sustain a huge fan base with a pretty high median IQ. Most of that owes to his writing. A judicious humorist, Bell is extremely charismatic and has a huge personal cache of pop culture references. (The title of his new album, *Face Full of Flour*, derives from an old-school Rice Krispies commercial in which a mom puts flour on her face to look like she slaved away on a batch of Rice Krispies treats.) Bell even breaks the fourth wall to analyze his own jokes ("The Russian judges gave me a 'ten' for technical difficulty," he says of a bit called "Barack Is Too Smooth — Throw Some Flour on Your Face"). He knows right away which current events will fit into his purview, and what kind of twist to put on them. A single punch line takes him from Rice Krispies to "white face."

Such qualities radiate in *Face Full of Flour*, which opens with Bell describing his complicated knot of feelings about Barack Obama, and ends with anecdotes about his interracial marriage. The stuff in between is topical and thematically cohesive, but delivered in an offbeat and cavalier way. Telling a joke about the recent Henry Louis Gates flap, Bell philosophizes, George Carlin style, about why Gates would "flip out" when accused of breaking into his own home. A joke about Michelle Obama touching the queen has him free-associating about the relative importance of both women: Michelle is the first African American First Lady; the queen is a rich figurehead with a precarious grip on power — and given the no-contact rule, she's probably a Gremlin, Bell surmises. A joke about civil liberties gets increasingly weird when Bell starts comparing "dudes who sleep with dudes" to "dudes who sleep with guns." Most of us will get the point about a gun being a substituted phallus; what's funny is hearing Bell act it out.

Bell's ability to veer from the banal to the bizarre is one of his big selling points. But he's not really an absurdist in the traditional sense — he's more of a political junky who sees everything through a racial lens. He reads online news voraciously, synthesizes information quickly, and tries to comment on it before the pundits weigh in. His Facebook status updates are always worth reading. He'll tweet from the stage. He'll pause midway through a Tyler Perry joke so that white people in the audience can take out their iPhones and look up "Tyler Perry" on Wikipedia. He's just the sort of comedian who should thrive in the age of social networking: fast, pointed, personal without divulging too much, good at lampooning black celebrities, and even better at impersonating their white hecklers. "When I say 'you white people,' I don't mean *you* white people," he says, addressing the audience in a bit called "This Is Not My America." "I mean your friends and family." That sounds like a put-on, but it always kills. *(Rooftop Comedy Productions)*

— *Rachel Swan*

W. Kamau Bell performs Thu-Fri, Feb. 25-26, at Stage Werx Theatre (533 Sutter St., San Francisco). 8 p.m. $20-$50. WKamauBell.com

To share this story, go to: [illegible]

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

The Importance of Being Earnest By Oscar Wilde, directed by Susannah Martin. Starting Feb. 25. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through March 21. Lafayette Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. 925-283-1557.

Ahdanco! [illegible] "home, look" Six pieces on human relationships with dance by Scott Simón, plus Oakland Poetry Slam's Aaron Gardiner and Nazelah Jamison. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 6 p.m. Continues through Feb. 28. $15-$20. Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, 2704 Alcatraz Ave., Berkeley. 510-654-5921. www.shawl-anderson.org.

An Anonymous Story New production of Anton Chekhov's [illegible] about an ailing revolutionary who poses as a government lackey. Adapted for the stage by Gary Graves and directed by [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through March 28. $14-$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-5800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Berkeley Opera Presents Mozart's *Don Giovanni* With [illegible] Eugene Brancoveanu in the title role, Igor Vieira as Leporello, [illegible] musical [illegible] as Donna Elvira, [illegible] as Donna Anna, and [illegible] playing Don [illegible]. [illegible] conducts the Berkeley Opera Chorus. More info at BerkeleyOpera.org. Fri., Feb. 26, 8 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 28, 2 p.m., $15-$30. El Cerrito Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito.

[illegible] Play by [illegible] depicts a WWII-era [illegible] from the perspective of African-American women and children. Fri., Feb. 26, 8 p.m., $15-$50. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Coming Home [illegible] premiere of the drama written by Athol Fugard and directed by Gordon Edelstein. Through Feb. 28. $13.50-$71. Berkeley Repertory Theatre Thrust Stage, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949.

[illegible] [illegible] premiere of the play written by [illegible], commissioned by Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Feb. 26-April 11. $13-$71. Berkeley Repertory Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949.

[illegible] Diablo Theatre Company presents the Northern California premiere of a Broadway musical comedy with songs by John Kander and Fred Ebb. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 28. $30-$42. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-7469. DLRCA.org.

East 14th Street: True Tales of a Reluctant Player One-man show by Oakland native Don Reed. Fridays, Saturdays, 8:30 p.m. Continues through [illegible]. $20-$30. Laney College Theater, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-464-3543.

[illegible] Amy Sass directs the Ragged Wing Ensemble production, in which she converts an old folk tale and [illegible]. Starting Feb. 25. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through March 20. $15-$30. Metal Shop Theatre, 2405 Stuart St., Berkeley.

Over the Tavern [illegible] comedy about a family living in Buffalo, New York during the 1950s. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 28. $11-$18. Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. 510-524-9132. CCCT.org.

The Syringa Tree Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, 2:30 p.m. Continues through Feb. 27. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-7469. DLRCA.org.

COMEDY

[illegible] Wed., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. $16. Tommy T's, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

[illegible] Comedy Night at the Layover Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. free. Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1507. OaklandLayover.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Lyon Opera Ballet Performing Forsythe's *Duo*, set to music by Thom Willems; Kylián's *Bella Figura*, set to music by Pergolesi, Vivaldi, and [illegible]; and De Keersmaeker's *Grosse Fuge*, set to Beethoven. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 26-27, 8 p.m. $36-$68. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

PICKS

Black Choreographers Festival

Dance is a vital force in African-American culture, yet many artists experience a relative dearth of performance opportunities. In response, the **Black Choreographers Festival** celebrates the talents of up-and-coming young African and African-American dance artists with the **Next Wave Choreographers Showcase**. A dozen burgeoning choreographers — including Savage Jazz company member **Antoine Hunter**, [illegible] Dance founder and Congo expat **Byb Chanel Bibene**, and Afro-modernist **Michael Velez**, who performed with Robert Moses' Kin — will show their stuff at **Dance Mission Theater** (3316 24th St., San Francisco) Friday through Sunday. Visit the festival web site for the lineup, which is different on each day. The Friday show will be followed by a curtain talk, and the Saturday show is also a tribute to Haiti by **Porsha Jefferson** — how to choose? Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26 and 27, 8 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m. $10-$20. 415-273-4633 or BCFHereAndNow.com. — *Claudia Bauer*

ahdanco's Home Season

ahdanco's Amanda Whitehead.

Among the most promising of the East Bay's innovative small dance ensembles is Abigail Hosein's **ahdanco**, whose home season at **Shawl-Anderson Dance Center** (2704 Alcatraz Ave., Berkeley) marks its eighth year of investigating the human psyche through modern dance and multimedia collaboration. **"home, look"** comprises six pieces that reflect on human relationships in a chaotic world, performed in an intimate setting as part of the Dance Up Close/East Bay series. Taking advantage of the East Bay's abundance of talent across all the arts, ahdanco will perform to new music by Oakland's **Scott Simón** while sharing the stage with **Oakland Poetry Slam's Aaron Gardiner and Nazelah Jamison** for a premiere piece. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26 and 27, 8 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 28, 6 p.m. $15-$20. Advance tickets strongly recommended. 510-654-5921 or ahdanco.org. — C.B.

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THEATER REVIEW

LAS BUENAS LATINAS

New Impact Theatre production revels in racial stereotypes and postmodernism

By Rachel Swan

Carlye Pollack: *Learn to Be Latina* Chelsea Isaac

"I hate postmodernism!" screams Hanan Mashalani, the cute, pale, curly-haired wannabe pop singer star of *Learn to Be Latina*, a new farce by San Francisco playwright Enrique Urueta. It's the most comically self-ironic line in a play that's postmodern enough to make Fredric Jameson green with envy. Indeed, no surface goes unruptured in this story of a woman's quest for stardom. Hanan (played by Carlye Pollack in a new Impact Theatre production) tries to get discovered the old-fashioned way, by sending a demo to a record label (F.A.D.) and hoping for the best.

The problem, according to the F.A.D. A&R reps, is Hanan's background. Born to immigrants from Beirut, she's a scion of a completely unmarketable ethnic lineage, they say. They make that case through a PowerPoint presentation that shows two pop divas who managed to subsume their Lebanese identity: Salma Hayek and Shakira. In both cases, the singers (born in Mexico and Colombia, respectively) branded themselves as "pure Latina." If it worked for them, said F.A.D. ethnicity consultant Mary O'Malley (Melanie Salazar Case), why not try it on a pure non-Latina like Hanan? Their solution: Add an accent to change "Hanan" to "Hanán." Give her a long, flat, dark brown weave and a lot of gaudy gold jewelry. Force her to learn pidgin Spanish, eat taco salads in public, and jockey for space in *Latina* magazine. And the real clincher: Steal a dance track from Eighties-era one-hit-wonder La Juana and turn it into Hanán's break-out single.

Such tactics might seem a little far-fetched, even for an era when anyone can purchase his next identity at the nearest postmodern outlet store. But director Mary Guzmán and the cast at Impact Theatre manage to keep the joke going for a full act-and-a-half. As Hanán's record sales soar, she enters a world of hyper-vain female celebrities, each with a carefully tailored stage persona. She poses for magazine covers and grants talk show interviews, reciting a fake bio about coming to Boston by way of Buenos Aires. In the process, she finds herself — not as a Latina or a Lebanese American, but as a lesbian.

Show Details
Learn to Be Latina runs Thursday-Saturday through March 27 at La Val's Subterranean Theatre (1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley), 8 p.m., $15-$20. ImpactTheatre.com

Therein lies the real story. For all its humor about racial stereotypes and the constructedness of identity, *Learn to Be Latina* is actually a coming-out narrative. Hanán falls for Blanca (Marlet Martinez), the high-heeled, voluptuous "office bitch" who spends her days wiping tables with Pledge and tutoring the pop singer in Latina 101. That plot twist allows Impact to use all the elements that have become its stock-in-trade: hot lesbian make-out scenes, jokes about strap-ons and Saran Wrap, femme-on-femme seduction. Within minutes of their first encounter, it becomes clear that everyone in the play is a closeted something-or-other. A&R reps Bill (Jon Nagel) and Will (Andrew Calabrese) are constantly running off to use the glory hole in the men's restroom. Their cohort Jill (Emily Rosenthal) is a repressed fascist with designs on taking over the company. O'Malley is not what she seems.

It took a little stroke of genius for Urueta to render the story of a closeted gay relationship in burlesque form. He and Guzmán treat the Blanca-Hanán romance as more than just an office tryst. In fact, it's the real meat of the play. But it's rendered in a smart, non-traditional way that avoids the obvious pitfalls of coming-out stories. Those who cotton to the political undertones can appreciate the bubbly soundtrack — a mix of T.I., Missy Elliot, Beyoncé, and several Top-40 Latin hits — or the constant pop-culture references. Hanán cites Tiffany as an early fount of inspiration. She and Blanca bond over shared adoration for the cartoon character Jem, another pop star with an alter ego. The layers of pastiche seem endless.

Impact specializes in self-consciously hip plays with obscene humor, and *Learn to Be Latina* could be the gold standard. Sock puppets pop through glory holes, Will does the "Single Ladies" routine in a leotard, O'Malley uses the words "queef," "cunt," and "cuca." Will, Bill, and Jill speak with a constant barrage of clichés ("Tell us once more, with *feeling*," Jill says, when Hanan first presents herself to the label). The humor is so sharp and aggressive that it's actually a bit exhausting over the span of two hours — we're subjected to punch line after punch line with no respite. It takes a clever group of actors to carry that type of script, and fortunately this cast rises to the occasion. Pollack and Martinez have genuine chemistry, and the Nagel-Calabrese-Rosenthal trifecta helps characterize the *pure* evil that is F.A.D. But it's Case who steals the show as Mary O'Malley, an ethnicity consultant with hipster glasses and dominatrix boots. Colombian American and bilingual in real life, she'll invent a Spanish proverb on the spot, and say it in a perfect accent. Her favorite? "*Las buenas Latinas no comen cuca.*" ●

To share this story go to: ebx.ly/p/latinas

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

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MOZART

directed by MARK STRESHINSKY
conducted by ALEXANDER KATSMAN
in Italian with English supertitles

with EUGENE BRANCOVEANU
IGOR VIEIRA • AIMÉE PUENTES

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LECTURES & LIT

The No-Sony Zone

In today's Japan, radicals are Catholic homeschoolers.

Stereotyping the Japanese has been a Western hobby for at least a hundred years. But the individuals we meet in **Andy Couturier**'s new book *A Different Kind of Luxury: Japanese Lessons in Simple Living and Inner Abundance* couldn't be further from the trendy Harajuku girl, the obsessed manga fan, or the repressed-and-depressed salaryman. During his four years in Japan, Couturier befriended homeschoolers, civil commentalists, activists, anarchists, recyclers, Luddites, and Catholics. They're rare figures in a nation where Couturier found himself amazed by "the radical conformity of such an outwardly modern society." Their brothers and sisters are doctors, lawyers, and managers — or married to doctors, lawyers, and managers. Yet these neo-radicals, well-educated and originally middle-class, now live in rural huts, fertilizing fields with human excrement and lecturing neighbors about the carcinogens in plastic.

Andy Couturier

"There is something fundamentally modern in being able to choose different aspects of a way of life and put them together. ... What I think gets people in our current society so trapped is that there are *so many* options available, and we don't have the internal fiber to make the choices based on a consistent and strongly held set of principles or values," explained Couturier, whose presentation at **Teance** (1780 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Friday, February 26, includes rare tea from rural Shikoku.

For clinging to their values, his friends face stigma, ridicule, and rejection — even from their families. The mother of a middle-aged rural Catholic pottery painter told Couturier bluntly: "I really hate the way she lives. Normal is best, I think."

Nonconformism can be social suicide in Japan. But as one anarchist/activist/artist told the author, "The opportunity to think for yourself is too valuable to be wasted."

Throwbacks and radicals all at once, some of these men and women have manifested their self-sufficiency by moving to the remote countryside. "As recently as the 1960s in Japan, in the mountains, rural people were still making almost all of what they needed without much interaction with the cash economy," Couturier said. Today's iconoclasts "could learn how to meet many of their own needs ... just by walking down the road to speak with a nearby older man or woman."

One reward for rejecting mainstream life is an ancient-yet-new perspective on the passage of time. Smashing yet another Japanese stereotype, they've learned how not to rush. As one man told Couturier: "If you have time, a lot of things are enjoyable. Making this kind of woodblock, or collecting the wood for the fire, or even cleaning things — it's all enjoyable and satisfying if you give yourself time."

Another, a bamboo flute player, observed: "The true sound can't be found in one or two years. Ten years is not enough, twenty years is not enough. The real thing takes a minimum of thirty years. That's why you have to be mad. You have to give it all your heart ... otherwise it'll never be the real thing." 7 p.m., $40. Teance.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story go to: *ebx.ly/ae/couturier*

LECTURES

"Awakening From Serious: Buenos Aires 1987" Documentary about Argentina. Wed., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m., $10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Conflict and Hope in the Congo Bridget Bukot discusses issues related to HIV prevention and displaced populations in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Tue., March 2, 12-1 p.m., free. Smith Center, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. 510-659-6031.

Eco Toilet Workshop Lecture on eco sanitation by Laura Allen of Greywater Action. Proceeds benefit [illegible]. Sun., Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m., $5-$10. Common Circle Education, 2020 Center St., Berkeley.

Hamman Piano Builder Wins Distinguished Recognition Leading a seminar on the history of piano design and building for more than 100 professional technicians and piano buffs. Tue., March 2, 3-5 p.m., free. R. Kassman Piano, 843 Gilman St., Suite B, Berkeley. 510-558-8785. [illegible]

Money As Debt, Part 2 Documentary film screening and potluck. Wed., March 3, 7:30 p.m., $5. Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818. HumanistHall.net.

Politics of the Earthquake: The Deep Conditions Presentation by the Haiti Action Committee. Sat., Feb. 27, 3-5 p.m., $8-$20. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Mark Schedel Exhibit Through Feb. 28. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

Book Launch for Gordon Edgar Discussing *Cheesemonger: Life on the Wedge*. Thu., Feb. 25, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

Gabriel Thompson Discussing *Working in the Shadows: A Year of Doing the Jobs (Most) Americans Won't Do*. Wed., Feb. 24, 7 p.m., free. Revolution Books, 2425 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-1196. www.revolutionbooks.org/

Kelli Stanley Discussing *City of Dragons*. Sat., Feb. 27, 11 a.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. greatgoodplace.indiebound.com/

Kirk Farber Discussing his debut novel *Postcards from a Dead Girl*. Mon., March 1, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

Poetry Flash Booklist: A Celebration for *Van Gogh's Ear, The Love Edition* With editor Dave Michelle Books and contributors Charles Bukowski, [illegible], Joseph Lease, and Laura Mullen. Thu., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Ralph Metzner Psychotherapist and former editor of *The Psychedelic Review* discusses his work. Wed., March 3, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Wednesday Morning Story Time with Carolyn America Wednesdays. Continues through Feb. 28, free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

William Issel Discussing *For Both Cross and Flag: Catholic Action, Anti-Catholicism, and National Security Politics in World War II San Francisco*. Wed., Feb. 24, 5-7:30 p.m., free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

Yiyun Li Discussing *The Vagrants*. Wed., Feb. 24, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. greatgoodplace.indiebound.com/

Zoe FitzGerald Carter Discussing *Imperfect Endings: A Daughter's Tale of Life and Death*. Wed., March 3, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. greatgoodplace.indiebound.com/

PUBLIC INTEREST

From Slavery to Mass Incarceration: The Fight for Black Freedom, The Fight for a Socialist America Sat., Feb. 27, 2 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

Missing Links: A Town Hall Program Discussion following overwhelming defeat of Measure [illegible]. With [illegible], Jane Kren White, Jeff Cambra, Jane Eddy, and moderator Phil Erickson of Community Design & Architecture, Inc. Wed., Feb. 24, 5:30-7:15 p.m., free. AIA East Bay, 1405 Clay St., Oakland.

Shaping the Future of Oakland Parks and Recreation Community focus group meetings. Wed., Feb. 24, 7 p.m., free. Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-238-3208. [illegible]

PICKS

Elaine Beale

Jesse Bennett is the new girl at school, but she's managed to hook two very popular friends. As we learn in **Elaine Beale**'s award-winning new novel *Another Life Altogether*, which the Oakland author discusses at **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland) on Thursday, Feb. 25, the only trouble is that Jesse's mother is mentally ill, and Jesse doesn't want the other kids to know. 7 p.m., free. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com — *Anneli Rufus*

Zachary Mason

Worn out after his ordeals during the Trojan War, Odysseus makes his hard way home to Ithaca. And it's from there that the classic tale you thought you knew veers in many surprising directions as reimagined in vignette form by artificial intelligence expert, computer scientist, and debut novelist **Zachary Mason**, who discusses *The Lost Books of the Odyssey* at **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Thursday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m., free. DieselBookstore.com — *A.R.*

Jason Shiga

The latest work by UC Berkeley alumnus, math whiz, maze whiz, childhood go champion, Oakland native, and cult-favorite cartoonist **Jason Shiga** is *Meanwhile*, which features a mysterious recluse whose lab houses a mind-reading helmet, a doomsday device, a time-travel machine, and more. Meet the Eisner, Ignatz, and Xeric award winner at **Books Inc.** (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Sunday, Feb. 28, 6 p.m., free. BooksInc.com — *A.R.*

Scott Rosenberg

Maybe fewer and fewer folks are buying books these days, but that doesn't mean they aren't reading. At the **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (2025 Addison St., Berkeley) on Monday, March 1, Internet pioneer **Scott Rosenberg**, author of *Dreaming in Code* and *Say Everything*, talks with columnist Jon Carroll about social networking as the new form of conversation. It's a benefit for Oakland's Park Day School. 7 p.m., $30. ParkDaySchool.org — *A.R.*

Elaine Beale.

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kathleen norris
THU MAR 4 7PM
A richly personal exploration of the spiritual concept of acedia, or "soul-weariness."

HOW TO DEFEAT YOUR OWN CLONE
terry d. johnson & kyle kurpinski
SUN MAR 7 3PM
Practical and hilarious, advice from two local bioengineers.

DON'T CRY
mary gaitskill
WED MAR 10 7PM
A master of short fiction reads from her first new collection in a decade. Gaitskill's celebrated stories include "Secretary," which inspired the film.

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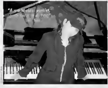

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AUTHOR EVENTS

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Another Life Altogether

Feb 28 4pm Teacher Tea with
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March 11 7:30pm Susan Kuchinskas
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BODY&SOUL

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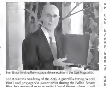
Arthur Szyk's Haggadah is both a spiritual text and a political broadside



Irvin Ungar holding Historicana's deluxe edition of the Szyk Haggadah.

As the written narrative of the Passover story, read aloud during seders for over a thousand years, the Haggadah is a holy book. But as it recounts slavery in Egypt and then liberation and exodus, it's also a political book, a poetic and passionate plaint against social injustice, exile, and bigotry.

"It's based on a religious event, yet it's dealing with the issues of the world," said **Irvin Ungar**, who was a pulpit rabbi for thirteen years before becoming a world-renowned expert on Polish artist Arthur Szyk, a master miniaturist and illuminator whose greatest work is a lushly vivid Haggadah that was first published in 1940. Ungar's Burlingame-based company, Historicana, has produced a facsimile edition, whose history and use he will discuss at UC Berkeley's **Doe Library** on Monday, March 1.

Well known in his lifetime but largely forgotten by 1975, when Ungar first happened upon the vintage Haggadah in a New York secondhand bookstore, Szyk — "pronounced 'schick,' like the razor" — studied at Paris' prestigious Académie Julien and Krakow's Academy of the Arts. A guerrilla during World War I and propaganda poster artist during the Polish Soviet War, he emigrated in 1940 to the United States, where — calling himself a "soldier of art" — Szyk mounted a fierce campaign against fascism. Used in government-issued fliers and posters, his caricatures of Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito were constantly in the public eye. Along with this work came many books, both secular and spiritual, including the Haggadah and an illuminated version of the *Statute of Kalisz*, which Ungar calls a medieval "magna carta" for Eastern European Jews, in 1927.

"He had a broad knowledge of traditional Judaism," said Ungar, who has curated museum exhibitions of Szyk's work around the world. "He was not a very observant Jew, yet inside he was deeply spiritual, deeply religious."

Using Hebrew text and gem-bright tones, Szyk depicted the Israelites in his Haggadah as 20th-century Eastern European Jews wearing patched trousers and vests, their Egyptian oppressors as blonde, blue-eyed Nazis. His original drawings included swastika insignias on the latter's clothing, but under pressure from publishers he ultimately removed them.

"When he sat down to start this book, it was 1934. Hitler had been in power for a year. Szyk saw Hitler as the new Pharaoh, the Nazis as the new Egyptians," Ungar said. "The story of the Exodus in Egypt" — which is the story the Haggadah tells — "was for him the story of what was happening in his own day."

"There's one page in the Haggadah that I especially love. It's a page about the 'bread of affliction,' and it shows two Israelites in chains. They're afflicted, they're in servitude, working for the ancient Egyptians. The same page also shows two men who are not chained, who are going off to the land of Israel to work for themselves. This is Szyk's way of telling us that he's an advocate for freedom. When I look at that page, it just lights me up." 7 p.m., free. Lib.Berkeley.edu

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/pr/haggadah

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Bay Street Stroller Strides Fitness program for moms to incorporate power walking, jogging, body toning, and strength and flexibility training and their baby strolls. Info: 800-955-0385 or StrollerStrides.com/eastbay. Fridays, 9:30 a.m., first class is free, $120 for a 10-class pass. Old Navy, 5635 Bay St., Emeryville.

Breast Cancer Support Group for Spanish-Speaking Women Registration required; call [illegible] 8853. Third and First Monday of every month, 4-6 p.m., free. Markstein Cancer Education and Prevention Center, 450 30th St., Room 2810, Oakland. 510-869-8833.

Community Healing Night With workshops and demos by professional healers and technicians. [illegible] provided. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Rhythmic Balance Studio, 2563 [illegible] Ave., Alameda. 510-645-5060. Rhythmic.org.

Kerry's Kids: Salvation Army A mobile health van where doctors [illegible] immunizations, health education, check-ups, blood pressure checks, and Head Start screenings entirely free to children. [illegible] Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. First Wednesday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m. 510-444-4320. Salvation Army, 2794 Garden St., Oakland. 510-437-9437. SalvationArmyUSA.org.

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Course Eight-week [illegible] course set by [illegible]. For info, visit [illegible].com. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Continues through March 25, $300. [illegible] 1531 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Sick Comedy With Sandra Rosen, Ira Brightman, and Malcolm Grissom. Sun., Feb. 28, 2 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Adult Autism Education An ongoing support group. Registration required; call 510-204-1586 for info and location. Fourth Thursday of every month, 3-5:30 p.m. East Bay various locations, Emeryville.

Alta Bates Summit Medical Center's Vascular Rehabilitation Program This program includes instruction on beneficial exercises you can do at home, education on clinically relevant topics, and guided strength training in a supportive group setting. Physician referral required. Instruction takes place at 3030 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley (next to Whole Foods). Info: 510-204-1554. Thursdays, 10 a.m., Tuesdays, [illegible]. $84.

[illegible] Life [illegible] Group Three different support groups offered for breast cancer survivors and their caregivers. Info: 510-204-3387. Second Thursday of every month, 5:30 p.m. Fourth Thursday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m., free. Alta Bates Medical Center, Ashby Campus, Berkeley. 510-204-4444.

Ecstatic Bliss Syndrome: Buddhist Reflections on Contentment Discussion led by Mahayana and Tantric Buddhism and meditation expert Steven Goodman. Fri., Feb. 26, 7 p.m., $10-$15. Dondrubling, 2748 Adeline St., Ste. D, Berkeley.

Personal Theology Seminars Guest speakers every week. Sundays, 10-11 a.m. Continues through May 30, free. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

Purim Carnival Features food, puppets, crafts, and games. Sun., Feb. 28, 2 p.m., free. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

Gentle Healing Yoga Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through May 1. $12-$18. Piedmont Yoga Studio, 3966 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

Introductory Tai Chi Class First Monday of every month, 8 p.m. Continues through June 1. [illegible], 2560 9th St., Berkeley. 510-548-5348.

Tai Chi Chih Class Six-week tai chi [illegible] Thursdays, 11 a.m. Continues through Feb. 25. $60. House of Truth Spiritual Center, 1100 Grand St., Alameda. 510-522-3366. [illegible].com.

Yoga for Recovery from Addiction A free Hatha flow class for people in 12-step recovery. For anyone who is recovering from addiction, or thinks maybe they should be, is welcome. Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., free. Studio One Yoga [illegible], 4326 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. [illegible]

PICKS

Bliss Lecture

If the Buddha taught that attachment causes suffering and if detachment is one of the hardest lessons in our [illegible] Western life, how happy are we meant to be? At **Dondrubling** (2748 Adeline St., Suite D, Berkeley) on Friday, Feb. 26, Mahayana and Tantric Buddhism and meditation expert Steven Goodman leads a discussion titled **"Ecstatic Bliss Syndrome: Buddhist Reflections on Contentment."** 7 p.m., $10-$15. DzogchenCommunityWest.org — *Anneli Rufus*

Kirtan Concert

In Hindu practice, kirtan is a form of call-and-response singing and chanting. Led by [illegible] facilitator and bhakti yoga master Sean Johnson, the New Orleans-based **Wild Lotus Band** combines Indian, Irish, Middle Eastern, choral, jazz, and other musical genres with ancient mantras to present kirtan concerts such as the one set for Friday, Feb. 26, at **Namaste Yoga** (5416 College Ave., Oakland). 7:30 p.m. $15-$20. NamasteRockridge.com — *A.R.*

Wild Lotus Band

Purim Carnival

Living under Persian rule in the 4th century BCE, the Jewish people faced annihilation if the king had his way — but were saved by his wife, brave Queen Esther, or so the story goes. This happy ending is celebrated every year at Purim. A **Purim carnival** at the **Jewish Community Center of the East Bay** (1414 Walnut St., Berkeley) on Sunday, Feb. 28, features songs, puppets, games, crafts, and a parade. 2 p.m., free. JCCEastBay.org — *A.R.*

"Sick Comedy"

Sometimes the only way to live with illness is to laugh at it. At the **Berkeley Central Library** (2090 Kittredge Ave., Berkeley) on Sunday, Feb. 28, four comedians present **"Sick Comedy"**: Norm Goldblatt riffs on leukemia, Sandra Rosen on tremors, Ira Brightman on rheumatoid arthritis, and Malcolm Grissom on Reye's Syndrome, a rare condition that can cause total organ failure and death. 2 p.m., free. BerkeleyLibrary.org. — *A.R.*

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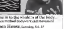

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MARS MAKES FOR LONGER DAYS

For the week of February 24-March 2, 2010

By Ralfee Finn

In this and coming weeks the days grow increasingly long, and while you may think this is related to the position of the Sun as we approach the Vernal Equinox or the beginning of Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 14, the "long" I'm referring to isn't about extra sunlight. I'm talking about Mars, and its preparation to go Direct on March 10. Retrograde since December 20, Mars is finally getting ready to move forward. And while its forward motion will be a relief, as Mars moves from behind to ahead, we move into the slow down that precedes the speed up, a transitional phase that is sure to be more than slightly discombobulating. On one hand, there is so much excitement about advancement you can almost taste the restoration of a "normal" rhythm. Mars is one of the planets that drive the mechanics of daily life and when it's retrograde all the plans and projects of daily life seem to take much longer to shift from first into second or third gear. On the other hand, pure forward motion is thwarted until at least ten days after Mars goes Direct, which means lots of us may find it difficult to strike an appropriate balance between hurry up and wait. In times of transition, it's always advisable to take no unnecessary action. The problem for the next couple of weeks, though, is figuring out what's necessary and what isn't.

Mars is retrograde in Leo, a fiery Sign known for its generosity, but also for its dramatic flare. Mars is the principle of willpower and symbolizes self-assertion, from anger to aggression to ambition to self-actualization. A forward moving Mars in Leo signals self-assurance, as well as passionate creativity. A "backward" moving Mars in Leo could provide enough antimatter to turn generosity into resentment and self-confidence into self-centeredness. As Mars begins its turn-around, lots of people may find it difficult to contain their frustration with certain events or circumstances, a condition that easily translates into temper tantrums about anything and everything. I'm not suggesting denial as an antidote, but it might be a good idea to wear a thicker skin or any other protective shield that will prevent you from getting sucked into interactions that are intended solely to blow off steam. The release may feel good in the moment, but the outcome could have lasting consequences. Make the effort to stay present and conscious, even if that means avoiding instant gratification.

Fortunately, a Sun/Jupiter conjunction in Pisces provides the perfect remedy for Martian angst and volatility. It continues to support vibrant creative inspiration as well as generally and genuinely optimistic attitudes. Apply this remedy liberally to any situation in need of compassionate understanding, and your kindness will help others to handle the intensity with a happy heart.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that too.

ARIES Mars is urging you to contemplate creative self-expression, but not necessarily a specific craft. Realize life as the greatest art of all and then think about how you want to color your world.

TAURUS Focus on what you need to feel safe and you'll find the courage to face whatever challenges your security. Yes, this is a test, and if you're determined to take life one day at a time, you'll pass with ease.

GEMINI First, listen carefully — much of what's being said is important. Then, respond — and make sure you stay on point! If you are clear and direct, your ideas will be well received.

CANCER You're right — Mars Retrograde has been all about money, and it still is. Pay attention to your finances by staying present for how and why you spend. Continue to bring awareness to your finances and you'll emerge victorious.

LEO Even if you howl at the Moon, you won't be mistaken for the Wolfman. Everyone shares your frustration. Hmmm ... maybe you could turn it into a howling contest to see who laughs first.

VIRGO Mars Retrograde certainly has the potential to devolve into a good, long brood — and frankly, I'm tired just thinking about how tired you must be from thinking through the mind games. Give it a rest and lead with your heart.

LIBRA It's a team endeavor, but it hasn't been that easy assembling a team that's willing to work together. So rather than force the situation, model the ideal. Work well with others and they will work well with you.

SCORPIO While you are thoroughly determined to win, I wouldn't classify your determination as completely unbridled ambition. Not yet. When Mars moves forward, you will, too. So continue to be patient.

SAGITTARIUS Even when you scratch it, wanderlust isn't an itch that goes away. It persists through the desire to experience new places and ideas. Give yourself permission to travel, inside or out, and you'll neutralize your frustration.

CAPRICORN You're in transition, and like all shifts from one state of awareness to another, the process is uncomfortable. The best way through is to keep putting one foot in front of the other. Eventually, you will come to rest.

AQUARIUS The focus is on relationships, which means that some of your interactions are certain to be volatile. Remember the old adage "do unto others ..." and you'll do just fine.

PISCES You're right, it is too much work. But somehow you're managing to get it done. This phase will eventually end; until then, you can count on an increased work load. ●

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For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-837-6264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Ralfee Finn

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The peppered portabello sandwich passes the acid test.

Chris Duffey

NEAR AND FARRO

Vegetarian winebar Encuentro stays a few bites ahead of the game with high-quality and often unexpected ingredients.

By Anneli Rufus

The best and most beautiful sandwiches are those whose contents stick out along the sides. But the contents don't merely peek out. They *slop* out. They *flop* out. They ooze out, because they should never be secretive. They should not be neat. They should be generous and proud. This is true at your favorite corner deli, and it's true at Encuentro, Oakland's new warehouse-district vegetarian winebar, which looks and feels the way winebars might in 2040, where everyone's a black-clad hipster; where interior spaces look like architects' sketches, recycled materials abutting shiny sheet glass; where ubiquitous dance beats throb softly; and where eating meat is obsolete.

Encuentro's creators include Eric Tucker, executive chef at San Francisco's acclaimed vegetarian restaurant Millennium, and Lacey Sher, former owner of New Jersey's vegan restaurant Down to Earth. They attended the same cooking school, New York City's Natural Gourmet Institute for Food and Health; he's the coauthor of *The Artful Vegan* and *The Millennium Cookbook*, and she's the coauthor of *Down to Earth Cookbook* and *You Won't Believe It's Vegan!* Veteran home chef and longtime commercial real-estate agent Linda Benz is the third partner.

Encuentro's sandwiches, the closest thing to entrées on a dinner-only menu that is big on small plates, include peppered portobello mushroom on a whole-wheat sourdough roll with caramelized onions, caramelized fennel, smoked hazelnut/almond vegan "cheese," and caper aioli. Yes, it passes the acid test. Mushroom swatches and melted "cheese" hunting lap over the edges of the roll, which matches a Subway six-incher in size — but all comparisons end there. This is a very dressy, savvy sandwich indeed, a nine-dollar opus composed by those who know its "relish" is its caramelized confetti. For non-meat-eaters, its portobello is a flamboyant paean to what vegetables can attain at their best. To meat eaters or non-meat-eaters who miss meat, the mushroom slyly evokes chewy squid or juicy skate.

And it's apropos, as is all produce used here — from the beets in the beet-and-burrata bruschetta to the fruit in the blood-orange salad with hazelnuts, vanilla oil, and Banyuls vinaigrette. On the mushroom sandwich, as on many other dishes here, diners can choose between vegan "cheese" and actual cheese.

Before opening last December, "we decided we wanted to be a vegetarian rather than vegan restaurant because so many people feel that cheese is really important to have with wine," Benz said. And wine is king in this tiny, breezy hideaway that used to be the sales office of the building's condo complex, whose dollhouse tables, colorful mosaics, and exposed ceiling pipes lend Encuentro the look of a pocket-sized Pompidou Centre. All wines served here are organic-certified and/or organically farmed; many cannot be bought at retail, Benz said, because they come from such small producers as 29-year-old Andrew Jones, whose Jurassic Park Vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley has produced only 200 cases of the reds and whites he calls Field Recordings.

From food to servers, sourcing means a lot to the three owners, who all live in the East Bay. The architect who fashioned the space lives in the building, while the interior designer lives around the corner. Berkeley's Metro Lighting created the lamps. "We like to keep it local," said Benz.

We started with starters. Does knowing that the main ingredient in Uncle Eddie's Wild Hen Deviled Eggs came from a cage-free farm in Petaluma make the eggs themselves taste better, richer, more nuanced — or is that just wishful thinking? Whatever it is, it works, with a mustardy, garlicky, chivey deviltization as a worthy foil. Four fat dates stuffed with macadamia nut pâté (the non-vegan option is goat cheese) proved soft, fluffy-chewy, and so luxuriant that some may deem it dessert. Those of us who welcome sweetness at any possible point in any meal would simply gloat.

A trio of bruschetta topped with thick avocado slabs at the peak of ripeness, scattered with cilantro, black salt, and lashings of chili jam was a clever riff on contrast: creamy-sharp, crisp, and satin-smooth.

A party in a plate was a generous heap of farro, an early, pearly form of wheat that was cultivated in the ancient world and was a staple for the Roman Legions, but is little used and difficult to find in American stores today. Lightly dressed, it was tossed with tiny chunks of carrot, fennel, sun-dried tomato, and two kinds of cheese, all artfully occupying one half of the plate. (When Encuentro's chefs can't get farro, they use berries for this dish instead.) Served with yummy aioli and evoking pemmican, in a good way, Crispy Smashed Potatoes comprised three firm, savory disks flavored and burnished with smoked *pimentón*, the Spanish paprika that pays homage to that land whose tapas tradition made small plates yesterday's next big thing.

Encuentro
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Sample Menu

Uncle Eddie's Wild Hen Deviled Eggs	$2
Stuffed Dates	$4
Avocado Bruschetta	$5
Crispy Smashed Potatoes	$5
Peppered Portabello Sandwich	$9

Encuentro's menu reflects the seasons, so the tomato jam now adorning the tempeh-bacon sandwich — whose tangy, smoky fermented soybean cake slabs could have been a teensy bit thicker or more numerous — will be replaced by fresh organic tomatoes in summer. Like its portobello cousin, this six-incher arrived with a serving of probiotic-rich pickled cauliflower, fennel, and French-cut carrot, flecked with mustard seeds and peppercorns. And a black lentil stew ascended to greatness thanks largely to hunks of smoked-apple-sage "sausage" created by one of the country's most skillful seitan-makers, Seattle's Field Roast Grain Meat company.

"Some people out there still think that if a dish is vegetarian, it has to be steamed vegetables with soy sauce and rice," Benz laughed. "We want to prove them wrong." ●

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Venezia 1799 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-4681 (Italian) $$-$$$

Venus 2327 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5950 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Burgers/Sandwiches/American/Mexican/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$$

Yogurt Harmony 2258 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5913 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Zabu Zabu 1919 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-848-9236 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$

[illegible] 1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-8300 (California Cuisine/Greek/Italian/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

BERKELEY-NORTH

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2827 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cafe Gratitude 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 415-824-4652 ext. 3 (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] 1805 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-[illegible] (Bakery/Mexican) $

Celia's Mexican Restaurant 1841 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1480 (Mexican) $-$$

César 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0222 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 1513 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9064 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

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3859 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3902. Star chef James Syhabout's intricate, unusual, and beautifully balanced creations are showcased at his sparely appointed, white-on-white Piedmont Avenue restaurant. The three-course prix fixe menu employs locally harvested seasonal ingredients in striking and unique combinations: sweetbreads on a bed of rye berries and alliums; rustic soup of Fort Bragg lingcod with toasted fennel, white beans, and seaweed broth; or a goat's milk panna cotta draped in beet blood orange sorbet and candied pistachios. The food is more memorable than the overall experience, though, especially at these prices. Wine pairings available for an additional stipend. $$$$

Everest Cafe

1845 Solano Ave., Berkeley, CA, 510-526-4915. The bright, invigorating flavors of Nepal star in this friendly little Solano Avenue hideaway. In addition to delights like momo (steamed dumplings), thukpa (noodle soup), and bhindi tarkari (stewed okra and onion), there are several tantalizing Indian preparations on the menu; the samosas, chana, potato naan, and tender smoky tandoor chicken are especially worthwhile. The desserts are available, but the mango lassi is as sweet and creamy as a milkshake. Good selection of Tibetan beers. $$

Flavah Island Cafe

2095 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-1483. Kingston native Don Edwards cooks authentic Jamaican favorites such as saltfish fritters, sorrel, curried goat, sautéed salted cod, escovitched fish, and savory yellow ackee. The latter, Jamaica's national fruit, is related to the longan but looks, feels, and tastes for all the world like scrambled eggs. Edwards makes most of these dishes based on his aunts and grandmother's recipes. Experiments such as Rasta Pasta — a meatless standout featuring whole-wheat fettuccini in a thick, basil-scented soy-cream sauce worthy of any fancy restaurant in town — are his own inventions, as is his allspice-rich jerk marinade. Some dishes are classic-nouveau fusions. Jam-Asian Stir Fry is a mountain of chewy and irresistibly smoky flat noodles. This and everything else here, including $12.99 breakfasts featuring enormous berry-topped pancakes, comes in such generous portions at such bargain-basement prices that you almost wish you could pay more, just to be fair. $

Nature's Express

1823 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-527-5331. From sturdy black-bean-and-"cheese" burritos to velvety peanut-butter "milk" shakes to slender, tender air-baked golden "fries" in two different varieties of "burger," everything served in this post-modern vegan fast-food joint is not only meatless, but milkless, eggless, honeyless, and preservative-free. For a menu whose sixty-something choices span breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks, agave-sweetened desserts, and snacks — and even includes a special section for kids — that's saying a lot. Sandwiches, wraps, salads, breakfast burritos, and other items made here with all-organic produce and no preservatives or chemical additives bring bright, pure flavors to the fast-food scene. Especially creative touches are turnip slaw, a tempeh Reuben sandwich, and a Sea "Tuna" sandwich whose secret is chickpeas. $

Phat Matt's BBQ

3415 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-879-7293. Tender, juicy, supple flesh is the prime attraction at this unpretentious rib joint. Texas-style beef brisket, North Carolina pulled pork, and a quarter-chicken doused in housemade barbecue sauce are almost creamy in texture, while the hook-red hot links snap, crackle, and spice up your insides. The skewy tri-tip, however, is easily avoidable. Side dishes are mostly unimpressive (exception: the wonderfully tangy Berkeley salad), but don't skip the praline-like pecan pie or the blissful, buttery peach cobbler. $$

Green Papaya

2016 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1658. Berkeley's first vegetarian Thai restaurant is owned by the same family that owns TukTuk and Your Place. Occupying the space that formerly housed Sushi A Float, a warm, fresh new design that reflects its allegiance to the plant realm. It's one of those rare places in which you keep on ordering and keep on liking everything you try. The fried-taro appetizer is a revelation: a creamy-starchy cutlet slab whose crisp, golden skin suggests a hand-chicken potato-dense doughnut. Other standouts include the daikon pad ties, pineapple-gluten curry, and peanut-sauce tofu. Noodle dishes are a bit sparse, but maybe that's because most of the other dishes — especially the curries, which range from mild to three-star spicy — are so gigantic. $

BERKELEY SOUTH

Adagia 2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-647-2300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Kitchen Sunday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Berkeley 510-548-3333 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Breads of India 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-848-7684 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cafe Muse 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley 510-548-4366 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Cafe Valparaiso 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-3800 (South American) $$

Caribbean Spice 2550 Telegraph Ave., 2nd floor, Berkeley 510-981-8471 (Caribbean) $$

La Cascada 2975 College Ave., Berkeley 510-704-1102 (Mexican) $

Crixa Cakes 2748 Adeline St., Berkeley 510-548-0421 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

Flacos Derby Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley 510-665-1672 (Middle Eastern) $

Homemade Cafe 2454 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-845-1940 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley 510-649-8538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Shen Hua 2914 College Ave., Berkeley 510-883-1777 (Chinese) $-$$

Smokehouse 3115 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3640 (American) $

Sweet Adeline Bakeshop 3350 Adeline St., Berkeley 510-595-7381 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

A Taste of Africa 3015 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-647-8584 (African/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Top Dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley 510-843-5967 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Wat Mongkolratanaram 1911 Russell St., Berkeley 510-540-2410 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Brunch) $

R&C

ian/Vegan) $$

The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3055 (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Chez Panisse 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-548-5525 downstairs/510-548-5049 cafe (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

Cioccolata di Vino 1801 Shattuck Ave. Suite C, Berkeley 510-898-1382 (Italian/Dessert/Ice Cream/Wine Bar) $$

Corso 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8004 (Italian) $$$

Da Lian 1674 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-883-1983 (Chinese/Taiwanese/Hot Pot) $

Everest Cafe 1845 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-526-4915 (Nepalese/Indian/Pakistani/Tibetan) $-$$

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Flacos Rose Street at Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Gioia Pizzeria 1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley 510-528-4691 (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Grégoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley 510-883-1893 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Guerilla Cafe 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-845-2233 (Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $

Meritage 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley 510-548-8317 (American)

Nature's Express 1823 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-527-5331 (Vegetarian/Vegan/American) $

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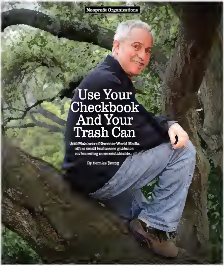

Nonprofit Organizations

Use Your Checkbook And Your Trash Can

Joel Makower of Greener World Media offers small businesses guidance on becoming more sustainable.

By Bernice Yeung

Feature 16

Profile

Lee Bycel

The executive director of Berkeley's Redford Center hopes to celebrate activism via the arts, celebrity and collaboration. But how will he know if his organization is succeeding?

By Michelle Quinn

Last December, the nonprofit Redford Center joined forces with Duke University's Nicholas School for the Environment to hold a summit on water and the West. The event brought together interested parties such as ranchers, environmentalists, and political leaders. But it began rather oddly with executive director Lee Bycel asking the group to discuss a short story he handed out, "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas," by the renowned science fiction writer Ursula K. Le Guin. The story's subject — a town that bizarrely relies for its happiness on the fact that one child is kept in the basement. *Story inside*

Buy Curious 3

Organized Retail Crime Is Not Just Shoplifting

Much of the shrinkage retailers assume is small time is actually the result of much larger criminal networks.

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

Shoplifting? Or Organized Retail Crime?

Much of the shrinkage retailers imagine is small-time is actually the result of larger criminal networks. Plus, trash into treasure in this month's retail tour

By Bernice Yeung

Montclair Soaps.

Late last year, the former president and CEO of Rosemont Wholesalers in Hayward was sentenced to nearly seven years in prison for various acts of retail-related fraud. Over the course of at least two years, Hassan Swaid ran an enterprise that purchased pilfered razor blades, baby formula, and Tylenol from Bay Area convenience stores that had, in turn, bought the stolen merchandise from a team of shoplifters. Swaid then re-sold the plundered goods to small local grocery stores and online customers across the country. When the feds raided the Rosemont Wholesalers warehouse, they found twelve tractor-trailers full of items lifted from stores such as Safeway and Target — merchandise that totaled millions of dollars.

Law enforcement and retail experts point to incidents such as the Swaid case to argue that some instances of shoplifting are actually part of larger and coordinated organized retail crime (ORC). "It was an eye opener for me because, generally speaking, when I usually pick up a shoplifter, an organized ring doesn't come to mind," said Lt. Bob Conner, an investigator with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, who became aware of the issue at a seminar hosted by the California Grocer's Association. "I didn't initially realize how lucrative it could be and how people are specializing in this."

Although the crime is associated with larger retailers, experts say that ORC affects businesses of all sizes. "Stores, whether they're chain stores or a small store, if they're carrying the desirable goods that are on the shopping list of the criminal offenders, they are most likely seeing ORC," said Joe LaRocca of the National Retail Federation. "Smaller stores may not be the first on the offender's list, but as larger stores put on more security and increase patrols and lock up goods, this forces criminals to look at other places including local retailers."

But organized retail crime isn't always top of mind because there currently isn't a uniform definition of it on federal law books. But it's garnering increased attention. Last November Congressman Lamar Smith introduced the fourth ORC-related bill in Congress, and one such bill was introduced in California in 2008.

Criminologist Richard Hollinger of the University of Florida has estimated organized retail crime to be a $30 billion annual problem nationwide, and other industry estimates have pegged it as high as $30 billion a year. In California, it's estimated that such networks steal about $5 billion of merchandise a year from California retailers for loss in sales tax revenue of up to $375 million annually.

Such crime often goes undetected, experts say. "Any one action doesn't look large," said Bill Dombrowski of the California Retailers Association. "But if you put them all together you see that they're stealing millions of dollars."

The bills currently before Congress would make organized retail crime a crime under federal racketeering statutes and create stiffer penalties for ringleaders. Eighteen states have passed such laws, and the California bill, which currently is stalled in committee, was drafted to "define what organized retail crime is and to build a hierarchy in terms of the penalty so the masterminds get prosecuted," according to a spokesperson for Senator Leland Yee. "Right now the only thing that law enforcement can do is go after foot soldiers, the petty thief."

Pending the creation of new laws, retailers and law enforcement are creating partnerships to address the issue. The retail industry has developed a database — the Law Enforcement Retail Partnership Network — to track and report organized retail crime. In December it was connected to a FBI database to assist federal law enforcement.

And last June, the US Immigrants Customs and Enforcement launched a program to focus on organized retail crime cases involving immigrants, or cases where products and money are being diverted outside of US borders. Some of the proceeds from the Rosemont Warehouse case, for example, ended up in Yemen.

"It's a lot bigger than what we see and there's a lot more going on than we are aware of," said Sergeant Shawn Knight of the Oakland Police Department, who investigated the case. "Small business owners are subject to the effect of organized retail crime, but really, everyone is affected because it leads to an increase in prices."

Retail Tour: Re-Retail

Here in the East Bay, we're proud of and perhaps smug about our enviro-savvy. After all, California officially leads the nation in recycling, and East Bay residents threw out less than four pounds of trash per person per day (compared to five pounds per person throughout the state). Berkeleyites are so good at making sure that things stay out of the garbage that the *San Francisco Chronicle* recently reported that the city has seen a $4 million decline in waste pickup revenues.

Consequently, the East Bay is brimming with businesses turning trash into treasure. Aside from stalwarts like **Urban Ore** (900 Murray St., Berkeley; UrbanOre.ypguides.net), **Ohmega Salvage** (2407 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley; OhmegaSalvage.com) and the **East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse** (4695 Telegraph Ave., Oakland; CreativeReuse.org), a number of local enterprises have discovered that discards can be converted into objects of desire.

At Re4m (2054 Mountain Blvd., Oakland; Re4mReform.com), a minimalist boutique in Montclair, co-owners Lisa Tana and Ashesh Patel sell goods that span the entire sustainability spectrum. This means treatises made from recycled tea bags by South African women and colorful office accessories derived from scrap leather from South American tanneries.

But local's the thing here, too. Re4m is the exclusive brick-and-mortar retailer for **King Bag Co.** (KingBagCompany.com), which makes bowling bag purses, messenger bags, and coin purses out of salvaged Fifties-era seat covers — think lovely textured red, blue, and sparkly silver vinyl. Each bag is handmade by northeast Oaklander Bobby Glaser, who bought out the remaining stock at King Kovers on Oakland's Broadway Auto Row before it closed. Bag straps are made with recycled seat belts, and any leftover scrap is given to an artist friend who uses them in her collages.

Re4m also was the first store to sell **Montclair Soaps** (MontclairSoaps.com), which are handmade by Kim Emanuel in his home studio in the Oakland hills. Emanuel embarked on soap-making when his wife began getting headaches from synthetic fragrances. He's since perfected the craft, and produces soothing olive oil-based soaps enhanced with jasmine, lavender, and pear essential oils, as well as all-natural lotions and lip balms. Emanuel is known to stop in at Re4m frequently to change out the stock, and he quickly discovered the Balinese-style ink and watercolor paintings of Tana's husband, I Made Moja, whose art is now featured on Emanuel's lotion bottles.

Meanwhile, Kristine Dang has taken the reuse concept to a new level with **Fernseed** (3436 Dimond Ave., Oakland; Fernseed.com), a home décor and novelty shop where just about everything is made from refuse. In addition to artwork quite literally made from bits of trash, Dang finds creative and stylish reuses for everything from Hula Hoops rescued from Burning Man (which became a light fixture) to tile samples (transformed into trivets) to orphan earrings (now necklace charms).

Dang, who formerly worked at RedEnvelope, also revamps dumped furniture. A dilapidated wood cabinet sees new life as a minimalist dresser; an ornate, European-style wood bench receives pizzazz with reupholstered pink and purple-striped seat cushions made from an old wool blanket.

Fernseed also sells the work of local artisans, such as Oakland resident Edmund Eng, who began making handcrafted jewelry boxes when he acquired a cache of fine grain wood after chopping down a black walnut tree in his yard. Dang now gives bag scraps of material leftover from furniture re-upholstry jobs, which the woodworker uses to line the jewelry boxes (also available at **Berry Patch**, 350 Main St., Pleasanton; BerryPatchPleasanton.com).

Dang also has a regular refuse-donation program going on with neighboring businesses. The liquor store and bar down the street give her empty Tequila bottles, which she converts into terrariums. She transforms chipped teacups from a nearby Chinese restaurant into tiny planters for succulent plants.

The list of re-useful businesses in the East Bay goes on: **Creative Office** (2470 Estand Way, Pleasant Hill; CreativeOffice.com), **Canyon Construction** (925 Country Club Dr., Moraga; CanyonConstruction.com) and **Built From Salvage** (BuiltFromSalvage.com). ■

Opening a new store? Unveiling a new product line? Throwing an unbelievable sale? Tell Buy Curious at BuyCurious@EastBayExpress.com.

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Small Business Q&A

Use Your Checkbook And Your Trash Can

Those are two good tools small businesses can use to become more sustainable

By Bernice Yeung

Ten years ago, green biz guru Joel Makower co-founded Greener World Media to create a "one-source stop for the greening of mainstream business." Nowadays, the Oakland-based company publishes five eco-oriented business web sites, such as the flagship GreenBiz.com, and convenes conferences on sustainable design and business trends. In February, it released its annual *State of Green Business* report, which tracks the environmental impacts of sustainable enterprises. We speak with Makower — author of tomes such as *Strategies for the Green Economy* — about the findings of the 2010 report and how small businesses can develop or enhance its "green gene."

Joel Makower of Greener World Media.

Chris Duffey

What were the highlights of State of Green Business report?

The biggest highlight is that green business didn't go away during the recession. In past recessions, the environmental people were the first to be thrown off the bus, and the fact that they largely kept their jobs, and in some cases, grew their mandates in this economy speaks volumes about where green business fits now in the corporate world.

Toxic emissions, and water and electric use per unit of GDP, have dropped every single year. So there's been steady progress, albeit incremental progress that is insufficient in terms of addressing environmental challenges the world faces. That's been the story for a long time. On the one hand, there is tremendous activity that is not known to the general public, but contrary to public opinion, this is an area where companies are doing more than they're saying. On the other side, it's just not enough. That's a problem for the planet and for companies that increasingly face any number of resource constraints — they may find it hard to operate in certain places, or their permission to operate in certain places is in jeopardy.

How are these companies doing more than they're saying when it comes to being green?

Companies are squeezing out inefficiencies and toxics, reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions in their operations, and sometimes dramatically. But it's a hard story to tell — it's the story of doing less bad, and most environmental improvements aren't those that show up in the final product. For example, a supplier to McDonald's now has a closed loop water washing process for their potatoes, and that's a significant environmental benefit related to what is being flushed down the drain. But McDonald's is not going to put an eco label on its fries. Multiply that out by tens of thousands of actions and you see the kind of progress we're making. Companies aren't always doing this to be better citizens; they're doing it because it's better business and almost any company of any size recognizes that pollution represents a kind of inefficiency.

What's preventing companies from doing more?

There is a confluence of barriers that keep companies from moving farther faster. One is simply that when it comes to change, companies, like people, are not good at it. Number two is education, and this is where we try to fill in the gap. Companies just want to know what to do, and there is no one-size-fits-all recipe. Every business is different in how they do things and the impacts they have along the way, not to mention the corporate culture and the appetite for change and innovations. And the policies are out of whack in terms of tax incentives, energy prices — all of the signals that can be sent in society to influence behavior.

What do you see down the pike for green business in 2010?

Over the past decade, we've gone from trying to do no harm to doing the right thing, to doing new businesses, which is to say that green isn't just a way to improve the bottom line or a way to grow the top line anymore; it's a platform for innovation, for new products and services, and for entirely new business models. That's where this stuff gets exciting. It's not simply about greening up the company, and not just about consumer facing products or the components that go into products we buy, but about the companies in and of themselves.

For example, one session of the recent State of Green Business Forums [held in San Francisco and Chicago in February] was about the collision of green business and clean tech because they have largely been separate arenas. I describe them as two circles trying to become a Venn diagram, and now where those two things overlap is this confluence of energy tech, IT, building tech, and vehicle tech that is going to transform the way we do things over the next generation in a way that allows us to dramatically reduce our environmental footprint. So what I see is more and more companies coming to this opportunity.

Ask East Bay Ray

Next month in *Small Business Monthly*, we're interviewing East Bay Ray, guitarist for the punk band Dead Kennedys and founder of record label Alternative Tentacles. East Bay Ray is currently back in the recording studio — Fantasy Studios in Berkeley, to be exact — with a new band under the guidance of producer Paul Leary. To submit your questions to East Bay Ray, search for Ask East Bay Ray on our web site and leave your question or questions as a comment by Wednesday, March 10.

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land/dev site
15,500' **$1,937,500**

1819 5th St
development Site
20 850' parcel **$2,000,000**

1005 Parker St.
office/warehouse bldg.
25 600± **$4 350 000**

WAREHOUSE FOR LEASE

2201-4th St.
warehouse
1,250 **$1 50**

724/726 Allston Way
2 warehouse spaces
2 125/4,250 **$1.25**

731 Dwight Way
warehouse
2,250 **$1 25**

1310-9th St.
studio/warehouse
2 400 **$1.25**

912 Gilman St.
warehouse
2 600 **$1.25**

2209-4th St.
warehouse
2 750 **$1.25**

1230-5th St A&B
2 warehouse spaces
3,630/7,260' **$1.25**

929/931 Camelia St
2 warehouse spaces
3 750 /7,500' **$1.20**

2824-6th St.
warehouse
4,180 **$0 85**

1001 Pardee St.
warehouse
5,275 **$0 75**

710 Bancroft Way
warehouse
10 420 **$0.59**

2919 7th St
warehouse
14 000 **$1.00IG**

OFFICE/LAB/R&D SPACE FOR LEASE

2490 5th St.
office & warehouse space
900 **$1 25**

1400Shattuck Ave #8
office or retail space
925 **$2.00**

1331 7th St
Office condos
1,050' 1,370' **$2.25/sq ft 1 G**

1013 Pardee St.
office space
1,200 **$1 15**

1510-4th St. "2"
office space
1 640 **$1 50**

1827-5th St. Ste "B"
office space
1,665 **$1 50**

2239-5th St
office space
2 170 **$1 80 IG**

1310 9th St
office space
2,300 **$1.75**

1144-65th St
2 office spaces
1,650 3 300 **$1 75 1G**

1144-65th St
office space
2 900 **$1 75 IG**

1440-4th St.
office space
3,000 **$2 25 IG**

727 Allston Way
office space
4,200 **$1 50 IG**

2390 "A" 4th St
office space
4 900 **$1.65**

819 Bancroft Way
office space
5 030 **$1 80 + 07**

1440-4th St.
office space
6 000 /6 982 **$1 85 IG**

1005 Parker St
office & warehouse
7,324 & 5 794 **$1.75 & $ 75**

RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE

2930 Shattuck Ave.
1,360 **$1.95**

5410 College Ave.
retail space
2 052 **$3 50/sq ft 1 G**

2236 San Pablo Ave
retail space
4 000 **$1 60**

1824 University Ave
retail bldg
6,964 **$1.95n**

And then there is what's happening at community level — the kind of work that is being done in the East Bay by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and Green For All because, as my friend Van Jones likes to say, "the green wave lifts all boats." We will start to see companies waking up to the social part of sustainability and not just the environmental part.

What is small business' role in all of this?

Our focus on big companies is not to, in any way, suggest that small business is not important here. Small business is the engine for innovation, job creation, and community well-being, and it's a vital part of the sustainability story.

The reality is it's much harder for small businesses to be green businesses in terms of operations because they don't typically own their facilities and they buy fewer things, so they don't get the same economies of scale. When big companies make small changes, it has large impacts. Small businesses can't take advantage of those kinds of opportunities. And small businesses don't have full-time environmental departments, so no one is thinking only about how to make the business greener, so it's a struggle.

Despite those challenges, what can small businesses do to become more sustainable?

Two of the biggest tools that small businesses have in becoming greener is their checkbook and their trash can. What are you spending on purchases and how could you be more efficient? What are you throwing out and what kind of inefficiency does that represent? How do workers get to work and how do customers get to you and how could you make those things more efficient? Whether it's the things you sell or the things you need in order to operate, how far are these things coming from and how are they made? Those questions will help you understand your business from an environmental perspective.

Small businesses, like households, typically believe that there's a couple simple things they could do and then they're done, and that's simply not the case. There are simple things that they could do, but the impactful things are not simple. They often require investments and finding new vendors or suppliers or changing ingredients or making other changes to an otherwise well-oiled machine. It's not simply a matter of swapping out Styrofoam cups for ceramic mugs, although that's a good thing to do. And it's not just about turning off a computer and turning off lights, which is important, too. There are opportunities to be innovative and to help create demand for greener products and services, and the opportunity to band together with other businesses, whether you become allied in some fashion or in order to build buying power.

Small businesses, like large businesses, are made up of individuals who bring passions and habits and an appetite for change. In the East Bay, we live in a community where there is a high appetite for change, but that does not always translate into an employee's personal habits. ●

Bernice.Yeung@EastBayExpress.com

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The Entrepreneurial Lawyer

Protecting Your Mission

Legal Tools to Keep Your Company on the Righteous Path

By Jenny Kassan

Have you heard the sad tale of Ben & Jerry's? It puts fear in the hearts of entrepreneurs who want their companies to do more than make money for investors.

Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield founded the company in 1978 with a mission to create top-quality ice cream and give back to the community. They donated 7.5 percent of pretax profits to charity and partnered with nonprofits to open shops in inner-city neighborhoods to employ low-income residents. The company's feel-good image attracted the interest of multinational corporations. In 2000 Unilever made a buyout offer to the company's shareholders. Even though Ben and Jerry did not want to sell out, they had little choice. The board could not risk accepting a lower competing offer without exposing itself to litigation from shareholders asserting their right to the highest possible return at the expense of all other considerations — a right upheld by many courts.

Since the takeover, the donations and inner-city shops have gone by the wayside.

The Bay Area is full of business owners who are passionately committed to contributing to the well-being of their employees, communities, and planet. Unfortunately, corporate law makes it risky for managers to put these considerations ahead of the maximization of shareholder return.

The California Corporations Code says, "A director shall perform the duties of a director in good faith, in a manner such director believes to be in the best interests of the corporation and its shareholders." While this seems to have directors some latitude, some courts have interpreted such language to mean that directors must put the interests of shareholders ahead of all of other considerations. This explains why hostile takeovers occur — if someone comes along and wants to buy your company at a profit to shareholders, you have to accept the offer even if you know that half the employees will be let go, charitable giving will cease, and the solar panels will come down.

There have been attempts to address this problem. Approximately thirty states have adopted laws that allow boards to consider factors other than shareholder profit. These laws are known as constituency statutes. For example, Wyoming law allows boards to consider the economy, the interests of their employees, suppliers, creditors, and customers, the impact of any action upon their community, and other factors relevant to promoting and preserving public or community interests.

In 2008, there was an attempt to get a constituency statute passed in California. It got all the way to Governor Schwarzenegger's desk, but he vetoed the bill after groups such as the Corporations Committee of the California Bar Association spoke out against it. Opponents of the statute were concerned that constituency statutes give so much leeway to corporate boards that they could be used as a way to disguise bad decisions behind a veil of "stakeholder interests."

So what is a social entrepreneur to do? In the early stages of a business, the founder's good intentions can keep the mission intact. But as more investors are brought in and a business grows, the original purpose of a company can be diluted or abandoned unless baked into the corporate DNA. To do that, there are several options.

B Corporation. This term was invented by a nonprofit organization called B Lab, which will certify a company with any legal structure as a B Corporation. To become one, a company must demonstrate that it meets social and environmental performance standards. The company also must incorporate a commitment to stakeholders other than shareholders into its founding documents. Since California corporations cannot make such commitments without exposing themselves to lawsuits, B Lab does not require them to add the language to their governing documents. However, they must adopt a resolution stating that they will adopt B Corporation language if the law governing California corporations is amended to permit it. Investors obsessed with maximizing profit at any cost may look elsewhere for more congenial places to put their money.

One local B Corp that has demonstrated a strong commitment to giving back to the community is Give Something Back, an office supply company based in Oakland. Since its founding, Give Something Back has donated more than half of its profits to charity.

Restrictions on Share Transfer and "Sellout Protection." The chocolate and coffee cooperative Equal Exchange built protections for its mission directly into its corporate structure. For instance, shares in Equal Exchange cannot be sold, except back to the company. Investors receive a return on their investment but can never sell their shares for a profit. The company also has a "sellout protection clause" in its formation documents that requires any profit made on the sale of the company to be donated to fair trade organizations.

> The tale of Ben & Jerry's puts fear in the hearts of people who want their companies to do more than make money.

The California Flexible Purpose Corporation. As early as January 2011, you may be able to form a "Flexible Purpose Corporation." This is a proposal to the California legislature to adopt a new corporate form. If a company elects to form as a Flexible Purpose Corporation, it will specify in its formation document at least one "special purpose" that the directors may consider in addition to shareholder returns. This would give the board more leeway to consider its stated social and/or environmental objectives when making decisions. In exchange for this increased latitude, Flexible Purpose Corporations would be required to make annual reports on how they are achieving their special purpose(s).

Mission protection may be the last thing on founders' minds in the early stages of a company. But early planning can keep your company's values from becoming Phish Food. ■

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Are you a "Bicycle-Friendly Business?"

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If you are a small business, it is more important than ever to become a bicycle and pedestrian friendly business. Staff and employees who walk and bicycle to work are more energetic and productive, and because of this generally have lower health care costs. They also don't require expensive parking spaces. And, encouraging your customers and visitors to bicycle and walk creates a loyal customer base and makes your small business a good neighbor.

There are many easy ways to be a bicycle-friendly business. Here's how to get started:

1. Provide **secure bike parking** for your employees, customers, and visitors. For employees, indoor bike parking or secure outdoor lockers are best. For visitors and customers, bike racks should be conveniently located near to entrance doors and in areas that are well traveled and provide "eyes on the bikes".
2. Display **bicycle transportation maps** at your bike parking facility for your employees and visitors to use in selecting good bike routes to your business.
3. Join the **Federal Bike Commuter Program** and give your bike commuting employees up to $20/month in pre-tax commute benefits for bicycle expenses. Here in the Bay Area, *Commuter Check* offers commute checks to bicyclists who can use their commuter benefit toward equipment and bicycle purchases, repairs and storage.

4. Offer **customer discounts (5-10%)** for bicycling to your business. There is no better way to be a good neighbor business than by encouraging visitors and customers to walk and bicycle to your place.
5. Provide **shower/locker facilities** for your bike commuters, or passes to a nearby gym.
6. Host a brown bag lunch **bike commute workshop** and get your employees/staff started as bike commuters.
7. Encourage bicycling at your business by **participating in Bike to Work Day**, coming up May 13, 2010. Host an energizer station on Bike to Work Day and reward your employees/customers with goodies and incentives for bicycling.
8. Encourage your bike commuting employees and staff to take a **bicycle safety class**. A list of bicycle safety classes can be found at ebbc.org/safety. These free classes teach bicyclists how to safely share the road with vehicles on the busy streets of the East Bay.

Know a company that does a great job promoting bicycling? Think they deserve some recognition?

Nominate a bicycle-friendly business today!

ebbc.org/awards

The East Bay Bicycle Coalition is recognizing the East Bay's most bicycle-friendly companies and offering awards and great prizes. Deadline for nominations is March 26, 2010.

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The Stimulus and Small Business Taxes

by Mielle Sullivan, Janus networks

The stimulus bill, also known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009, in addition to creating some jobs via public works, has some provisions to help businesses — particularly if they have seen a drop in revenue. Here is a few of the tax breaks in the bill that could help your business for tax years 2009, 2010, and maybe even farther into the future.

Reduced Estimated Tax Payments
If you file quarterly estimated tax payments, you may qualify to pay less estimated tax. To avoid fines, you would normally have to pay 100 percent of the tax you paid the previous year. Under the stimulus bill, you only have to pay 90 percent of the prior-year tax payment.

Canceled Debt Relief
If you owe a vendor or a supplier money but negotiate a settlement or forgiveness you now don't have to pay taxes on the amount forgiven for five years. This applies to a variety of debt-settlement plans: loan modification and absolution, cash payment resolutions, and other arrangements that occurred in tax year 2009 or later. For example, a debt you settle in 2009 will not generate a tax bill until 2014.

Loss Carrybacks
Because 2008 was one of the roughest years in the last 70 for small businesses, the stimulus bill has provided more flexibility to loss carrybacks to increase the chances of you getting a greater refund this year. If you lost money in 2008, normally you could only carry back that loss to the previous two years. Now you can carry it back to up to five years prior and can cherry-pick the previous year or years in which to take loss. If you had a particularly prosperous year a few years back and paid more than your normal amount of taxes, you can refile your taxes for that year, include the loss carryback, and get a refund.

S Corporations
S corporations are corporations that elect to pass corporate income, losses, deductions and credit through to their shareholders for federal tax purposes. The stimulus bill has decreased the number of years after formation that owners of S corporations can sell those companies without paying capital gains tax from seven years to ten years. So, if you are an owner of an S corporation established in the last 10 years, you can now transfer ownership without incurring tax.

Tax-Break Extensions and Expansions
In addition to new tax laws, the stimulus bill also continues some tax provisions that were set to expire in 2008. As one example, first year equipment purchase deduction and bonus depreciation rules were both extended in 2008 for a single year. Equipment write-offs were doubled to $250,000 and will include up to 50 percent of any purchase costs left over after the equipment deductions. The stimulus bill allows these greater limits through 2009. Depreciation on vehicle purchases is also extended to 2009, so the write-off for a new car or truck is still about $11,000.

COBRA Payments
This one new contingency may actually cost you money in the short term, if you laid off workers. The bill reduces the premiums recently laid-off workers have to pay to continue their health insurance under the federal Consolidated Omnibus Continuation of Health Coverage law. Employers now have to pay 65 percent of the premiums, with employees paying 35 percent. Previously, employees had to pay all of the premium to continue their coverage. The IRS does reimburse employers for their COBRA payments, provided they owe enough payroll tax after layoffs to cover the credit. If you laid off all or a majority of your staff, you will probably be stuck with the COBRA payments.

Businesses with qualified workers using COBRA can apply for reimbursement of their share of the COBRA payments on their quarterly employment tax return. Be sure to use the updated version of Form 941 to get your credit.

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Even Small Foundations Have a Big Responsibility

Whether you employ hundreds or have a staff of just one, foundations must comply with similar financial guidelines.

Jonathan DeYoe

Anyone who runs a nonprofit organization should be heartened by the unprecedented generosity of our fellow citizens following the devastating earthquake in Haiti last month. Millions of dollars in donations poured into a multitude of worthy organizations. But with this ramp-up in charitable giving, we also saw increased scrutiny of how the recipients were managing their books. Whether the focus of a nonprofit is disaster relief, landmark preservation, or saving the planet, the careful stewardship of its financial resources is paramount to the success of its goals.

Foundations with limited staff or financial expertise can find this especially daunting. According to the Association of Small Foundations, the vast majority of its members operate with zero or one staffer. A nonprofit's tiny staff and dedicated volunteers may have the talent and resources needed to help a remote village in sub-Saharan Africa create an irrigation system but lack the bandwidth or skills to address tax reporting and investment management. Attracting active and qualified board talent with an adequate understanding of finance can be a challenge as well. While it's easy to understand why investment management takes a backseat to feeding or clothing the hungry, small foundations are subject to the same compliance requirements as their larger cousins.

These requirements got tougher when the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act of 2006 replaced the Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act. New compliance requirements were added for all foundations. In simple terms, the 2006 act requires that an organization's policymakers invest its assets, "in good faith and with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances." "Prudence" is the key concept here.

Highlights of the act included these tenets: Investment costs should be appropriate and reasonable; economic factors such as inflation or deflation need to be weighed during portfolio design. Investment decisions must be appropriate to the institution's portfolio and resources; diversified portfolio construction is the standard unless circumstances dictate otherwise; and incoming assets should be reviewed periodically for conformity with the institution's objectives.

These requirements are easily within the reach of well-staffed organizations like the Pew Charitable Trust or Gates Foundation. However, if a foundation's paid staff is limited to one CEO and its board is not financially savvy, this can be much more difficult to manage. Thus, most small foundations delegate the investment function to a trusted advisor.

Provisions for delegating investment authority to an outside agent or advisor are spelled out clearly: "An institution shall act in good faith, with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in like position would exercise under similar circumstances, when selecting an agent, establishing the terms of that agent's authority, and periodically reviewing his or her performance."

A well-written policy statement also is essential. Such statements often include a mission or objectives, delineate a time frame for spending goals, establish periodic foundation payouts for operating expenses, describe portfolio design criteria and target investment returns, provide proxy voting guidelines if appropriate, and define oversight and monitoring requirements. Taken together, these are the rules by which a foundation's investments are managed.

Once these issues have been addressed, I recommend that foundations consider the ethical ramifications of how they manage their capital. Luther Ragin Jr., one of the pioneers of a socially conscious approach known as "mission related investing," is said to have asked his board, "Should a private foundation be more than a private investment company that uses some of its excess cash flow for charitable purposes?" Here in the East Bay, we instinctively want to answer "Yes!" Unfortunately this leads us to the more complicated question: "What about fiduciary responsibility?"

It takes cold, hard cash to battle global warming or world hunger, which is why the board of a foundation is tasked with the fiduciary responsibility of maximizing investment returns within certain parameters. Foundations don't just need money to support their immediate objectives. They need enough capital to sustain the foundation for years to come. And yet, board members often feel a moral duty to "walk the walk." If a foundation's objectives include protecting the environment, investing in even a highly profitable company with a record of toxic dumping would likely present a conflict.

> In my experience it doesn't make sense to separate the investment function from an organization's mission.

This debate is currently being waged in many nonprofit circles, but in my experience it doesn't make sense to separate the investment function from an organization's mission. I'm convinced it's both prudent and possible for an organization's investments to incorporate its convictions. You can help folks in Haiti rebuild their lives and construct a "responsible" portfolio with risk and return characteristics that are similar to those of a less-responsible portfolio. ●

Jonathan DeYoe is a certified private wealth advisor and an LPL Financial registered principal. Securities and financial planning offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC. This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal or tax advice. Consult your attorney or accountant for such advice to determine what is appropriate for your situation. Info@DeYoeWealthManagement.com

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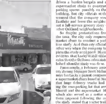
An Oakland Icon May Close

The Merritt Bakery and Restaurant is on the verge of shutting its doors in part because of a city decision made nearly eight years ago

By Robert Gammon



Parking is usually full. Robert Gammon

In 2002 the Jerry Brown administration decided that a supermarket chain was more important to an Eastlake neighborhood than an independently owned Oakland icon — Merritt Bakery and Restaurant. So planning department officials allowed Albertson's supermarket on East 18th Street to more than double in size without adding any new parking. The massive expansion, along with the closure of an Albertson's on Lakeshore Avenue, resulted in thousands of new customers who had no place to park except in front of the next door Merritt Bakery and Restaurant. And now, nearly eight years later, the Merritt is on the verge of collapse.

Charles Griffis, who runs the Merritt and whose wife, Fatima, owns it, said he's lost more than a $1 million in annual business since the city allowed Albertson's — now Lucky supermarket — to expand without adding new parking. He also said he's been having trouble meeting payroll and may have to close unless city officials come to the rescue. He has asked the city for a $300,000 bailout, plus $50,000 a month to help his cash flow until business turns around. When asked in a recent interview at his restaurant whether he was in danger of going out of business, he responded: "Shit yes. I'm almost out."

But there are questions as to whether the cash-strapped city can afford to save one of the few large, black-owned restaurants in Oakland. The city loaned the 58-year-old business $162,000 last year and has bailed it out repeatedly since it first opened in 1952. Moreover, is a 1950s-style coffee shop/diner whose glory days may be over worth saving — even if it is a local institution whose demise was hastened by a city decision?

A city-funded report on the Merritt completed last month reveals that it has problems beyond a lack of parking. San Francisco-based consultant Gabriel Coin noted in the report that the Merritt raised food prices during the recession in an effort to increase revenues. But the restaurant now charges more than its competitors for the same menu items, and it may have reached a point where it's no longer affordable for its aging clientele. In addition, the report notes that even though the Merritt has downsized its staff from 86 employees in 2007 to 49 currently, its labor costs are "still more than 12 percent above the national average" for restaurants. Indeed, on a recent visit to the Merritt, there were far more employees than customers.

But the report also concludes that the Merritt's parking problems need to be addressed before the business can make a turnaround. In fact, Griffis said he has told city officials that a bailout by itself will only prolong the misery. "We've told them — Without parking, you're wasting your money," he said.

Unfortunately, parking is not an easy solution. Part of the problem is that the city may not be able to force Lucky to hold more parking or give up what it has. Eight years ago, the Brown administration could have driven a harder bargain and required the supermarket chain to construct additional parking spaces, possibly on the roof of the building. But city officials at the time were worried that the company would abandon Eastlake and leave the neighborhood without a full-service grocery store — much like other Oakland neighborhoods.

So despite protestations from Griffis at the time, the city only required the supermarket chain to conduct a parking mitigation study. And then city officials looked the other way when the company failed to complete the study until 2008. Moreover, there's evidence that Lucky is still violating parking rules that the Dellums administration established after the study was done.

For example, a February 2009 letter from city Zoning Manager Scott Miller to the attorneys for Lucky's parent company, Save Mart, a supermarket chain based in Modesto, noted that large delivery trucks had been blocking the rear parking lot that serves both the Merritt and the supermarket. Miller's letter, which also served as a notice of the conditions imposed following the completion of the study, stated that tractor-trailer deliveries must be completed by 6 a.m. each day. In addition, small- and mid-sized truck deliveries must only be between the hours of 4 a.m. and 1 p.m.

But Griffis maintains that tractor-trailers are still making deliveries late into the morning, after the Merritt opens for business, and are blocking his customers. In addition, smaller deliveries are happening into the afternoon, he said. Moreover, a February 2, 2010 report from Miller to top-level city officials backed up his contentions, concluding that "rear truck loading for Lucky's was not in compliance" with city requirements.

Nonetheless, the city's hands may be tied. The problem is that back in 2002, city planning officials granted approval for the supermarket expansion to the property owners, Barbara Hartson and John K. Kennedy, and not to Albertson's/Lucky, as is typical under state law. As a result, the most the city may be able to do is place liens against the property owners, because it's prohibited by law from fining Lucky itself, explained Eric Angstadt, who is Miller's boss and is deputy director of Oakland's Community and Economic Development Agency.

The city also could try to convince the property owners to alter Lucky's lease. Currently, parking at the site is not set aside for either Lucky or the Merritt. But in reality, Lucky's customers end up dominating the two parking lots. The city also could attempt to alter the property owners' permit for the site, but that likely would end up in court, because state law frowns on cities taking away unchanging vested property rights.

Moreover, some city officials aren't convinced that the Merritt's parking issues are as bad as Griffis contends. In a February 2 report, Miller said that a city survey last year found that lunch-hour parking was available in the parking lot in front of the Merritt on a regular basis.

However, this reporter found no parking in the lot in front of the Merritt during lunch hour this past Monday, and a vast majority of the motorists appeared to be supermarket patrons. In addition, this reporter found no parking in front of the Merritt just before the weekday dinner rush last week. And yet at the time, there were only a handful of customers inside the restaurant. Also, during about thirty minutes of observation, this reporter saw customer after customer go into Lucky but not the Merritt.

Griffis realizes that his parking lot woes may be unsolvable, so he is asking the city to dedicate street parking on Second Avenue to the Merritt and to examine whether to close a one-block strip of the avenue adjacent to his business and turn it into parking for the restaurant. But although Griffis, whose wife bought the Merritt in 1998, has supporters within the Dellums administration, it's unclear whether they will push to grant his bailout and build him more parking. Griffis has been corresponding with mayor's office staffers Theotis Oliphant and Marisol Lopez, but Oliphant declined to comment for this article and Lopez did not return a phone call.

Griffis' flashy lifestyle and history of financial problems also raise doubts as to whether he can garner the needed city support. He has had troubles with the state Franchise Tax Board, and he drives a gray Ferrari. Griffis said he bought the expensive sports car with proceeds from a prior business and that his tax problems were unrelated to the Merritt.

The business owner said he would be willing to sign a deal with the city to implement many of the recommendations made in the city-commissioned report on his business in exchange for the bailout and more parking. But will it be worth it to Oakland? Does it make sense to close off a street for a business that may not survive over the long term?

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Profile

Lee Bycel

The executive director of Berkeley's Redford Center hopes to celebrate activism via the arts, celebrity and collaboration. But how will he know if his organization is succeeding?

By Michelle Quinn

Robert Redford and Lee Bycel at San Francisco's Sundance Kabuki Theater in February.

Last December, the nonprofit Redford Center joined forces with Duke University's Nicholas School for the Environment to hold a summit on water and the West. The event brought together interested parties such as ranchers, environmentalists, and political leaders. But it began rather oddly, with executive director Lee Bycel asking the group to discuss a short story he handed out: "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas," by the renowned science fiction writer Ursula K. Le Guin. The story's subject — a town that bizarrely relies for its happiness on the fact that one child is kept in the basement.

While this story may seem far removed from the challenges facing the Colorado River basin, Bycel said he asked those gathered to think about basements in their own lives. He also handed out writings by the Greek philosopher Plato. Meanwhile, musician John Forté, formerly of the Fugees, also performed and participated in the two-day conference.

"No papers were given," Bycel noted.

Such quirky details highlight the Redford Center's offbeat approach to its areas of concern. While many nonprofits have narrow goals such as saving the bay, promoting small schools, or delivering shoes to the poor, the Redford Center's broad and amorphous mission is to inspire "positive social and environmental change through the arts, education, and civil discourse." Bycel said he likes using the arts to get people to use their imaginations and think of an event's themes more broadly.

The Redford Center — as in Robert, the Utah-based actor, director, and environmentalist — quietly opened last March in Berkeley and moved into the downtown Brower Center a few months later. Initially funded by Redford, his family, and some friends, the center hopes to use the power of celebrity to shed a spotlight on local activists and bring together people to discuss issues such as water, arts, and public education. The center's main focus is to create retreats at which civic and corporate leaders, scientists, and others tackle public policy issues. Artists and filmmakers will take part in the discussions as part of an effort to create discourse among people who normally wouldn't meet each other. In other words, it isn't trying to solve problems per se, but rather to be a convener.

Bycel met Redford in November 2008 when he interviewed for the position of the new center's executive director. An ordained rabbi whose work in recent years has focused on international humanitarian relief, Bycel, 61, says he took the job as executive director because he thought it would be a good vantage for encouraging people to become activists in their own lives.

He grew up in southeast Los Angeles, coincidentally not too far from Redford's Santa Monica home. In 1966, at the age of seventeen, he moved to the Bay Area to attend the University of California at Berkeley. "I was totally ill-equipped for everything that would hit me here," Bycel said.

He traveled around America after graduating in 1971, and held a variety of jobs. He then decided to become a rabbi, and after five years of education, in 1979, he became the assistant rabbi of Congregation Rodef Sholom in San Rafael. His resume includes being dean and director of the Rabbinic School at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles and president of the Brandeis-Bardin Institute in Brandeis, California. From 1992 to 1994, he served as president of the County of Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations.

But Bycel came to a turning point when he started learning about the Sudanese human rights situation in 2004. He had been disappointed with his own inaction during the Rwanda genocide in 1994. And now something similar was happening again in Darfur. "I heard about Darfur and people comparing it to the Holocaust where lots of people stood by," he said. "I was alive during Rwanda but I didn't do anything. I had two kids, the usual constraints."

Nonprofit Groups

So during Yom Kippur in 2004, Bycel went to refugee camps in neighboring Chad as a volunteer with the Santa Monica-based International Medical Corps. He saw the camps that house 275,000 Darfurian refugees. He became the organization's senior advisor for global strategy, and has gone back to Chad four times.

After his work with the International Medical Corps, in 2007 Bycel was named the executive director of the western region of the American Jewish World Service, a nonprofit organization providing humanitarian assistance and emergency relief to people worldwide.

Now, after years of personal involvement in activism, Bycel plans to help celebrate it at the Redford Center through a regular event called the "Art of Activism," where a celebrity activist is interviewed on stage and two local activists are honored. At the center's inaugural public event at San Francisco's Sundance Kabuki Theater on February 4, Bycel interviewed Redford about the genesis of his activism. Redford told how as a child who was turned off by school, he was saved by the love of the arts. The center's first two honorees were Victor Diaz, principal of the high school continuation school Berkeley Technology Academy, and Avery Hale, of Kentfield, the 15-year-old who founded Step by Step, an organization that delivers lightly worn shoes to people in developing nations.

But with such a broad mandate, how will Bycel know if he and the center are succeeding? During an interview at his office on the fourth floor of the Brower Center, he answered that question by jumping up to point to a photo on the wall of a smiling African girl. "How will we know if she is the one to discover the cure for cancer?" he asked. "We don't," he said. "How can we know the impact changing one life will have for the world? We don't."

"Running a nonprofit is harder than running a business," Bycel added. Success, he said, tends to be harder to measure for the nonprofit. "Nonprofits have become more accountable in all the way boards want, that income pays for expenses and they receive a good response. But what really matters for a nonprofit is did it impact people in a significant way and motivate them to action. That outcome is not measurable." And nonprofits can suffer from what he called "mission creep," trying to do more than they can do and thus losing purpose.

Still, the center's goal is to come out of these gatherings with something concrete. For the water summit, the group is working on a joint statement of principles and has discussed making a short documentary film about water issues.

Robert Redford has long had an activist bent, particularly in the area of the environment. In 1989, at the Sundance Preserve in Utah, he hosted an event called Greenhouse Glasnost to look at the issue of global warming years before most people had ever heard of it. The Redford Center is an outgrowth of programs that have taken place at the Sundance over the years. In addition to creating programs, the center is the Sundance Preserve steward, which means protecting 2,000 acres of open space in the North Fork Canyon near Provo, Utah.

In 2008, the Redford family decided to make the center a separate entity and house it in the Bay Area, partly to tap into the political and cultural activity of the region, and partly to be close to Redford's son, James, who lives in Fairfax and serves as the center's chairman. While Bycel and his two co-workers will plan the Redford Center's programs in Berkeley, many of those programs will still happen at the Sundance resort in Utah.

It is too early to determine the impact, if any, that the organization might have on the Bay Area. Bycel said he considered headquartering the center in the Presidio but felt that the location would make it feel "removed" from Bay Area life. In Berkeley, they are close to the university and the arts area. Although funding for the center comes primarily from Redford and his family and friends, the organization's goal is to become self-sustaining, perhaps with benefactors who want to sponsor specific programs. At the same time, the center's leaders do not want its programs to be just for the rich. "We want economic diversity at summits, so we have to have it subsidized," he said.

What the Redford Center will become, of course, will be evident as time passes, as well as where it fits among nonprofits in the East Bay.

The center is "going to look for collaborations that make sense," Bycel said. "The Bay Area is about taking responsibility and activism. We need activism that is strategic, tactical and collaborative. The ultimate measure of our success will be in the many contributions we hope to make that will lead to a more just and humane world." ●

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A Path to College Through Business

The nonprofit group BUILD has found that entrepreneurship awakens disinterested high school students.

By Michelle Quinn

The students in BUILD work with mentors on their business ideas. Chris Duffey

One recent evening in the auditorium of Lionel Wilson High School, five freshmen were pitching their idea to make air fresheners designed to cover up the sweaty smell of gym bags. They described a survey they had conducted among 118 people, which showed that women who played sports would be their best potential customers. After all, the students noted, their company's satchels would be filled with bath beads that could be used in the tub once they had accomplished their first mission.

Then the students answered the questions of a panel of four judges who were evaluating their presentation. "What would you do if there's an accident and the air freshener breaks?" asked AOL sales manager Adam Wright.

Chief executive Alfredo Sanchez didn't hesitate. "We would give the money back," he said.

And as for the more important question of how to get apathetic teenagers interested in admission to a four-year college, the nonprofit organization BUILD thinks it has found the answer: turn them into entrepreneurs.

Using real-world business experience as a way to engage students is not a new idea. Organizations such as Junior Achievement have long taught business skills, and the program Spark offers workplace apprenticeships to seventh- and eighth-grade students in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Thomas Friedman of *The New York Times* recently touted the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, which has a business competition program for low-income students.

But what Businesses United in Investing, Lending and Development (BUILD) offers is an intensive four-year program that ties entrepreneurship to academics and provides the help of tutors and mentors. Perhaps just as important for the students, who often go to BUILD several times a week after school, the organization gives them a peer group where it's cool to brag about their accomplishments and an environment where they can win prizes for each milestone they reach.

At the recent business-presentation contest, the auditorium of East Oakland's Lionel Wilson School was filled with East Bay ninth graders pitching their business ideas. All were trying to win the night's prize, a $5 gift card to Starbucks. Their families watched and cheered. In May, at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business, the students will compete in a business plan competition against students at other schools BUILD partners with. Their presentations will include PowerPoint presentations, detailed financial information, twenty- to thirty-page business plans, and the ability to maintain eye contact with adults.

The evening's event was just one small part of a four-year process that will involve students creating and selling their products. If they stick with BUILD, the organization promises, they will get admitted to college, and some will go on to major universities.

"One thing that excites me as someone who wants to see change in education is injecting the relevance factor into the conversation with students," said Nereyda Salinas, director of the leadership degree programs at Stanford University's school of education. "Why do I need math? Because I want to balance the books. Why do I need to balance books? I want to have a profit. They understand profit."

BUILD thinks it knows how to get apathetic teenagers interested in college: turn them into entrepreneurs

BUILD was started in East Palo Alto in 1999 by Suzanne McKechnie Klahr, a Stanford law school graduate. Klahr was working in East Palo Alto on a Skadden public service fellowship that involved starting a counseling program for adult entrepreneurs. Four teenagers walked into her office asking for help starting a business, since, as they told Klahr, everyone drops out of high school. With the caveat that they stick with their studies, Klahr met with the students after school to help them with their T-shirt and sweatshirt company. Over time, she said, she realized that creating a small business is "a great vehicle for propelling people academically to college." The four students all graduated from college.

Nonprofit Organizations

Ten years later, BUILD is now in five classes in four schools on the peninsula. Six years ago, the program expanded to Oakland, where public high school graduation rates are among the lowest in California. Currently, BUILD is in five Oakland schools, and works with students from three other schools in the region, and there are plans to beef up its presence in East Oakland. Two years ago, BUILD opened an office in Washington, DC, and it plans to open another location such as Boston.

While academic retention can be a challenge, the organization continues to meet one of its chief goals: 100 percent of those who graduate from BUILD are accepted to college. "We want to be able to expose our kids to the community, the schools, the corporations, and show that by re-engaging young people in education, even those who are left behind, we can propel them to college," Klahr said.

Students are mostly Asian, Latino, and African American and from families where they are often the first to go to college. During their freshman year, students take a business class as an elective and work on their business ideas and team presentations with mentors from the local community such as Wright of AOL. As sophomores, students operate their businesses with the help of volunteer venture capital advisors and mentors. Juniors, while operating their business, go on state college tours with BUILD staff and begin to focus on the college essay and SAT preparation. Seniors shift their focus toward applying for college.

"What attracted me to BUILD was not that they peddled a product," said Sheilagh Andujar, the principal of Oakland Technical High, where twenty freshmen take the BUILD elective course. "But that they have a methodology and philosophy on how to get students to see their own power from within, and they start right away putting together a business plan and developing and marketing their product."

The organization, which is headquartered in Palo Alto, has plans to keep following its students to make sure they have what they need to graduate from college.

All this, of course, takes money. The top priority for BUILD's leaders is fund raising. For the fiscal year that ends June 30, the organization's budget, which is raised entirely from donations, is $3.4 million, an 11 percent increase over last year in what was a difficult fund-raising environment for many nonprofits. This year's goal is to grow the budget. The organization currently receives about 70 percent of its funding from foundations. The rest comes from individuals, who doubled their contributions to BUILD this year, said Elizabeth Gardner, the organization's director of individual giving.

In Oakland, BUILD faces several challenges, such as raising its profile to attract mentors and potential contributors. Keeping students in the program, particularly freshmen, can be hard. In 2008-2009, BUILD retained 87 percent of freshmen, up from 68 percent the year before. At Oakland Tech, seven out of a class of 27, nearly one-fourth of the class, dropped or were dropped from the freshmen class. The organization recently revamped its freshman year program to make it more fun for students. Pizza parties, ice cream socials, and prizes also help engage students.

Denise Yamamoto, a nonprofit consultant who is the chair of BUILD's Oakland advisory board, is also a mentor at the Castlemont Business and Information Technology School in East Oakland, where she said the organization is still not well known. Just thirteen kids are in the BUILD freshmen class, although there is room for 25 to 30.

"Because not many kids know about it yet, I think it's been difficult to attract and retain kids in the program," she said. "I have a feeling that the longer BUILD is in a school, the more successful it can become."

In 2009, BUILD Oakland had 24 graduates, up from 12 graduates the previous year. This year it expects to have 36 graduates. More students are in the pipeline: It has 107 freshmen this year. Last year, 105 freshmen started with BUILD and 98 of them began the program's sophomore year.

When Belinda Turner moved from Oakland to Vallejo to live with her grandmother, it was unclear whether she would still be able to attend Oakland High School and still work with BUILD. The organization helped her figure out how to get to school in the morning with bus passes. Most evenings after BUILD, her mentor Katya Rivas, an affirmative action officer at the University of California's office of the president, takes her home.

"It keeps me going," said Belinda. "Instead of just going home and doing nothing except homework and lollygagging, it keeps me doing stuff. They are always here for me. They try to help me get me through the best they can." Belinda, whose business sells handmade soaps, hopes to work in the medical field.

At the BUILD office in downtown Oakland one recent Monday, sophomores watched Super Bowl ads to get ready to make their own commercials for their products. "What are they trying to sell? Who are they targeting?" Lyndsey Ballinger, business incubator manager, asked the group.

In another room, twelve seniors were busy at computers filling out financial aid applications. On a wall was a display with their names, photos, and the colleges they had received acceptances from. The 36 graduating seniors had applied to 333 schools and received 69 acceptances to date.

Chinese food arrived to celebrate the sophomores' good school report cards.

Xavier Taylor, a sophomore at California College Preparatory Academy in Berkeley, said he recently raised his hand in church when the call went out if anyone knew about making a spreadsheet. When church members gave him a quizzical look, his mother said her son knew about business.

"Strangers are often surprised," said Xavier, a budding behavioral analyst. "Teenagers making a profit off a legitimate business?" ■

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Skills & Schmoozing

Anton Schwartz — Matt May

The Right Track for a Music Career

Anton Schwartz dispels old-fashioned myths about scoring a record deal

Anton Schwartz took a circuitous path to become a professional jazz musician. He studied math and philosophy at Harvard, then clocked five years in a Stanford Ph.D. program, where he specialized in artificial intelligence. At that point, the academic life started to wear on him, and Schwartz got a weird hankering to pick up his sax and leave. It was an odd shift, career-wise, but Schwartz said the horn helped him find peace of mind. Not to mention he could parlay his math-geek rationalism to the music industry.

Lack of experience made Schwartz see things differently than other musicians, and probably improved his chance of success. "There's long been this attitude in the music industry of 'Us versus the Man,'" Schwartz explained. "It used to be that the only way you could be successful was by getting discovered and signed by a record label. The record labels had some pretty undesirable business tactics, and the musicians all got bitter. That mentality persisted long after its applicability."

In reality, though, there are much better ways for musicians to function, especially with the advent of cheap CD production and digital networking. Schwartz contends that you no longer need the imprimatur of a record label these days, and a lot of musicians do better by themselves anyway. Now, he's showing other folks how to go the DIY route. On Sunday, March 21, he'll lead a seminar at the **Jazzschool** (2087 Addison St., Berkeley) called **Get Your Music Career on Track! How to Build Your Career as an Independent Artist**. Mixing practical tips with anecdotes about his own experience, the saxophonist and bandleader will attempt to dispel the notion that every musician's aim is to score a record deal. Apparently that advice pays dividends. Schwartz does music full-time, and he's now recorded four albums as a leader. The workshop runs 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (with a lunch break) and costs $75 for Jazzschool students, $90 for everyone else. Jazzschool.com

— Rachel Swan

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Classes & Workshops

Creating Your Niche and Plan [illegible] to help career-minded artists position [illegible] plan, led by [illegible] Sydney [illegible]. Mon., March 1, 7-8 p.m., Mon., March 8, 7-8 p.m., $25. Bridge Artspace, 23 Maine Ave., Richmond. 510-233-3348, BridgeArtSpace.com

Do It Yourself [illegible] Design Workshop Eight-week course led by gallery [illegible] Oakland [illegible] provide structure for people with some decorating experience. Course touches on shopping and sourcing, color schemes, fabrics, accessories, project management, and budgeting. Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Continues through April 7. $[illegible] for eight meetings. State Gallery, 4170 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Do-It-Yourself Tax Assistance Session leaders show participants how to e-file their 2009 state and federal tax forms for a quick refund. Open to anyone whose income is $52,000 or less. Starting March 5, Fridays, 6-8 p.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through March 27. Free. Opportunity Junction, Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. 925-776-1133 ext. 110, OPTIC-CC.org.

Excel Basics Introductory computer class. Starting March 23. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 1:30-3 p.m. Continues through April 1. Free. Opportunity Junction, Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. 925-776-1133 ext. 110, OPTIC-CC.org.

Excel Part 1 Computer basics class. Starting March 8. Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Continues through April 13. Free. Opportunity Junction, Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. 925-776-1133 ext. 110, OPTIC-CC.org.

Export/Import Workshop Full-day SCORE workshop covers customs brokers, letters of credit, banking, marketing assistance, legal pitfalls and government [illegible] programs. Thu., March 18, 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. $[illegible] (with processing fee). Cal State East Bay's Oakland Professional Development Center, 1000 Broadway St., Oakland.

Financial Business [illegible] 2010 Education Series Seminars on how to create a business plan and attract more [illegible]. With [illegible] and [illegible] development experts, plus keynote speaker and consulting [illegible]. Tue., Feb. 23, [illegible] p.m. Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 [illegible] Dr., Pleasant Hill. 925-[illegible].

The Financial Plan SCORE Counselor [illegible] gives step-by-step advice on reading [illegible] statements, cash flow statements, and [illegible] sheets. Thu., March 18, 1:45-4 p.m. $[illegible] (with processing fee). CAC Conference Room, 801 Broadway, Suite 210, Oakland.

Going Public in 2010: Is the Window Opening? Thu., Feb. [illegible] p.m. $[illegible]. Haas School of Business, 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-7588, Haas.berkeley.edu

Help for Job [illegible] Personal branding workshop led by workshop [illegible] and hiring expert Walter [illegible]. Thu., Feb. 25, 1-6:30 p.m. Free. Concord Library, 2900 Salvio St., Concord.

How to Start Your Web [illegible] SCORE workshop covers the fundamentals of web site design and traffic. Tue., March 16, 1:45-4 p.m. $[illegible] (with processing fee). CAC Conference Room, 801 Broadway, Suite 210, Oakland.

[illegible] Basics Series of classes to teach beginners how to use [illegible] programs and software. Starting March 1. Mondays, 6-8 p.m. Continues through March 22. Free. Opportunity Junction, Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. [illegible] 776-1133 ext. 110, OPTIC-CC.org.

Introduction to [illegible] Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Feb. 27. $[illegible]. The Crucible, 1260 7th St., Oakland. 510-444-0919, TheCrucible.org.

Mark-up [illegible] For [illegible] info [illegible] at 510-[illegible]. Sun., March 7, 4-6 p.m. [illegible] Beauty Bar, 2906 [illegible] Ave., Oakland.

Workshop for Artists, Something for Education Three-hour workshop helps artists how to photograph, package, deal with copyrights, and record their work. Wed., March 10, 6-9 p.m., Wed., March 17, 6-9 p.m. $35. Bridge Artspace, 23 Maine Ave., Richmond. 510-233-3348, BridgeArtSpace.com

Spoken Word Stories: Life Stories in Poetry and Prose Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Continues through March 4. Free. Oakland Public Library, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3272, OaklandLibrary.org.

Spoken Word Workshop: Intro to Writing Short Fiction Fridays, 4-5:30 p.m. Continues through March 5. Free. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400, OaklandLibrary.org.

Spoken Word Workshop: Writing Life Stories Saturdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Continues through March 6. Free. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400, OaklandLibrary.org.

Jazzschool: Jazzschool Improvisation & Jazz Theory-Musicians & Singers Ten week jazz session with Jim Grantham. Call or e-mail Jim for exact session & individuals. Wednesdays, 7:30-11 p.m. Continues through April 7. $295 for 10 weeks. Jim Grantham Music Center, Lake Merritt Area, Oakland. 510-271-7864. JazzMentorWorks.com

Parking Policy & Pricing Discussion Professor Donald Shoup of the urban planning department at UCLA shows the basis on parking policy as they relate to the economy. Thu., Feb. 25, 7-8:30 p.m., free. Lafayette Library, 952 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. 925-283-3872. LafayetteFriends.org.

Real Estate & Contracts Forum Panel discussion about real estate buying basics, economic reports, and financing options. Breaking experts on hand to answer questions and impart information. Moderated by Colleen [illegible] of KCBS. Wed., Feb. 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m. The Uptown, 1928 Broadway, Oakland.

Reduce Your Footprint in 2010 Workshop to help individuals, government, businesses, and organizations lower their greenhouse gas emissions in 2010. For info, call the Ecology Center at 510-548-2220 ext. 240, or visit EcologyCenter.org. Thu., Feb. 25, 7 p.m., free. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. Pages.sbcglobal.net/bfuu.

Retail Forum Workshop with Business Lady [illegible] covers merchandise assortment, budgeting, pricing, inventory turnover, projecting sales, markdowns, and seasonal goods. Thu., March 11, 3:45-5:45 p.m., $25-$35 (with software). Cal State East Bay's Oakland Professional Development Center, 1000 Broadway, [illegible], Oakland.

Soul Song: Song Writing Session Oakland Word series workshop. Sun., Feb. 28, 2-5 p.m., free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland.

Starting & Managing Your Music Business Full-day workshop covers business plans, legal [illegible], marketing, advertising, tax, employment, and other topics. For info, visit [illegible].org. Thu., Feb. 25, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., $45. San Ramon Community Center and Central Park, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. 925-973-3200, SanRamon[illegible].org.

Starting & Managing Your Small Business Workshop covers business basics, such as insurance, permits, legal [illegible], marketing, advertising, writing an [illegible] business plan, accounting, taxes, and employment guidelines. Call 510-273-6011 for more info. Sun., Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. SCORE San Ramon Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon.

Starting & Managing Your Own Business Day-long workshop for small business owners covers logistics, legal aspects, finance, accounting, advertising, tax, employment, and writing an effective business plan. Thu., March 11, 8:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m., $45. Cal State East Bay's Oakland Professional Development Center, 1000 Broadway St., Oakland.

Take Charge of Your Work: Career Development Part of the Oakland Word workshop series. Saturdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Continues through March 6, free. Oakland Public Library Cesar Chavez Branch, 3301 E. 12th St., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

Finding Your Share on the Road-Selling Your Art or Trade Comprehensive workshop led by Gwen McShepard. Sat., March 6, 1-4 p.m., $45. Bridge Artspace, 23 Maple Ave., Richmond. 510-233-3048. BridgeArtSpace.com.

Women Blogging 101 Retreat Oakland Word workshop. Sat., March 6, 12:30-3:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400. OaklandLibrary.org.

Urban Fiction: Elements of Short Story Writing Oakland Word workshop. Saturdays, 2:15-3:45 p.m. Continues through March 6, free. Oakland Public Library Cesar Chavez Branch, 3301 E. 12th St., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

Safety Library Resources Exhibit Resources workshop with guest speakers from the Antioch Library. Thu., March 11, 6-7:30 p.m., free. Opportunity Junction, Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. 925-776-1133 ext. 15. OPPJC-CC.org.

Worm Composting Workshop Bay-Friendly gardening program presents [illegible] Caldwell [illegible] Bishop, turns scraps into nutritious [illegible] using worms. For info call 510-548-2220 ext. 238. Sat., March 6, 10 a.m.-noon, free. Ecohouse, 1305 Hopkins St., Berkeley. 510-841-3181

Writing and Speaking Work: Poetry and Spoken Word Oakland Word series workshop. Saturdays, 3:30-5 p.m. Continues through March 6, free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland.

Launches & Open Houses

Black Wall Street Business of Commerce Exhibit Black history month [illegible] includes forty events and three exhibits in twenty-one locations, including Allen Temple Family Life Center, East Oakland Youth Development Center, [illegible] Alternative Center, Love Center Ministries, Oakland Library, New Life COGIC, [illegible] School, Game Academy, St. Bert MBC, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Through Feb. 28. Black Wall Street, International Blvd., Oakland. BlackWallStreet.org.

Networking

2010 East Bay Women's International Networking through Facing Forward Featuring mixers, workshops, breakout sessions, and a keynote address by journalist Lisa Ling. Mon., March 1, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., $100. San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Dr., San Ramon. 925-867-9280.

"After Five" Reception (aka Business Mixer) Hosted by the Unity Center for the [illegible] Art Development, and Preservation Park. Includes the introduction of the Business Visionary award & [illegible] of the "Remember Them: Champions for Humanity" monument. Thu., Feb. 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m., free for Chamber members, $15 for non-members. One Bishop Preservation Park, Oakland. (510) 874-7580.

Business Outreach of Commerce: Word Get-together for Business new and old to exchange leads and [illegible]. Mon., March 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m., free for [illegible], $20 for nonmembers. Broadway Management, 1150 Harbor Bay Pkwy., Alameda.

Business [illegible] of Commerce New Member Orientation Mon., March 8, 8:30-9:30 a.m., free. Alameda Chamber of Commerce, 1416 Park Ave., Alameda.

Albany Business of Commerce Networking Mixer Meet for returning and [illegible] members held at the Turf Club. To RSVP visit AlbanyChamber.org, or call 510-525-1771. Wed., Feb. 24, 5:30-7 p.m., $10. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300, GoldenGateFields.com.

Berkeley Business Faire Event sponsored by the Albany Rotary Club and Albany Chamber of Commerce. Have two transportable items evaluated by a professional appraiser for $20. Additional item $10. Live music and refreshments provided. For info, visit AlbanyChamber.org. Sat., Feb. 27, 2-6 p.m. Albany Middle School, 1259 Brighton Ave., Albany. 510-559-6547. www.albany.k12.ca.us/amsl

Bay Area Seed Interchange Library (BASIL) 11th Annual Seed Swap Exchange heirloom seed with a potluck, music, and home-grown garden [illegible]. Fri., Feb. 26, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org.

Bo-PEACE [illegible] Opportunities for Youth Business Fair and March [illegible] Rally For details call 510-809-1450. Wed., Feb. 24, 3-4:30 p.m., free. Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-465-4793. LakeMerrittUMC.org.

Berkeley Business of Commerce Evening Mixer For info, visit BerkeleyChamber.com. Thu., Feb. 25, 5:30-7 p.m., free. Doubletree Plaza Hotel, 2086 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Berkeley Outreach of Commerce Business Breakfast visit BerkeleyChamber.com to RSVP or get more info. Wed., March 10, 7:30 a.m., $15. Rose Garden Inn, 2740 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-549-2145. RoseGardenInn.com.

Business Trade Faire Extraordinaire Trade fair sponsored by the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce features exhibitor booths, refreshments, networking, and a [illegible] new products and business. Thu., March 25, 5-7 p.m. Boundary Oak Country Club, 3800 Valley Vista Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-934-2007.

Candidates Forum: 16th Business District Discussion over breakfast. Mon., March 22, 8:30-10 a.m., $20-$30. College of Business, 555 [illegible] Ave., [illegible] 510-522-7221, alameda.peralta.edu/business.

Coffee Club Meeting Oakland coffee bunch features updates on the market and the economy. Wed., Feb. 24, 8:30-10:30 a.m., free. Edward Jones Investments, 1485 Treat Blvd., Suite 203, Walnut Creek. EdwardJones.com.

Coffee with the Chamber Opportunity Junction, Nature's Bounty Cafe and the Antioch Chamber of Commerce hold an open discussion on ways for employers to get tax credits by hiring qualified [illegible] Nature's Bounty. Tue., March 9, 8:30 a.m., free. Opportunity Junction Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. 925-776-1133 ext. 15. OPTC-CC.org.

Inside Oakland Breakfast Forum Have breakfast with people who affect Oakland city policy. Fri., March 12, 8:30 a.m., free for Chamber of Commerce members, $10 for non-members. Oakland Chamber of Commerce, 475 14th St., Oakland.

Job/Career Fair Sponsored by [illegible] Job fair sponsored by the Mount Diablo [illegible] Career Expert. Call 925-603-1481 for details on reserving a table. Fri., Feb. 26. Concord High School, 4200 Concord Blvd., Concord. 925-687-2030. ConcordHighSchool.net.

State of the City Luncheon Lunch and keynote speeches by city [illegible], [illegible] by the Albany Chamber of Commerce. For tickets, visit AlbanyChamber.org. Thu., March 11, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $25. 8 Degrees na Solano, 1403 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-559-1230. 8DegreesSolano.com.

Open Call

ACCI Gallery Seeks New Artists The gallery is looking for innovative, high-quality contemporary fine art and crafts. Please submit 5-6 slides of your work, an accompanying list of the works with title, medium and retail price, a résumé, bio, or artist statement, and a SASE. Visit ACCIGallery.com/join_art.htm for more info. Daily. ACCI Gallery, 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

Antique Business Sun., Feb. 28, 1-4 p.m., $15 for up to 3 items, $5 per additional item. Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 [illegible], Walnut Creek. 925-947-1678. GardensHF.org.

Application/Nomination Deadline: Albany Valley Water Conservation Awards For South Bay businesses and individuals who have helped [illegible] health and economic vitality by addressing water issues. Visit Waterawards.org for more info. Fri., Feb. 26.

Bay Area Labor Heritage/Rockin' Solidarity Chorus The chorus is looking for new members to sing work songs in a variety of styles, from folk ballads to gospel to South African anthems to current [illegible]. [illegible] is open to anyone regardless of past experience. Class credit in Labor Studies available. Register at the first session or by phone at 510-286-1225. Every other Saturday, 12:30-4 p.m. Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-834-5740. 510-464-3210. Laney.peralta.edu.

Call for Laney Through Graduates to Join the Laney [illegible] Alumni Association Perks include advance notice of Laney [illegible] and events, plus networking opportunities. To register, call founder [illegible] Hunt at 510-3[illegible]-8300, or e-mail [illegible]@peralta.edu. Daily, free. Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-834-5740. 510-464-3210. Laney.peralta.edu.

Earthquake Safety Program Outreach Meeting Event features information on upcoming construction contracts for the BART earthquake safety program, plus updates on the no-cost support services that BART provides for small businesses. RSVP to Lorena Amaya by calling 510-986-8100, or [illegible]ventures.com. Thu., March 4, 2:30-4:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Building, 2, 500 [illegible] 23rd St., Richmond.

[illegible] Do It Yourself Music Video Contest DIY Music Video teams will compete for a spot in the 28th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival and a prize provided by Toyota. Visit AsianAmericanMedia.org/Videos to watch and vote. Through March 4. PariSoma, 1436 Howard St., San Francisco.

New Member Orientation Member of the [illegible] programs and events, public policy, business [illegible] opportunities, and addressing [illegible]. Visit ChamberOrganizer.com to register. Wed., Feb. 24, 4-5 p.m., free. Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, 1711 [illegible] Dr. #202, Walnut Creek. 925-934-2007.

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900 Grayson 900 Grayson St., Berkeley, 510-704-9900 (California Cuisine) $$

Barbonne 1090 Dwight Way, Berkeley 510-848-4055 (Thai/Burmese) $$

Arizmendi Bakery and [illegible] 4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville 510-547-0550 (Bakery/Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Bette's Oceanview Diner 1807 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-644-3230 (American/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

The Bread Workshop 1305 University Ave., Berkeley 510-843-0340 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Restaurant 720 University Ave., Berkeley 510-843-0940 (Jamaican) $

Bucci's 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-547-4725 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Cafe Cacao 914 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6000 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$$

Cafe M 1799 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-526-4420 (American/Breakfast/Organic) $$

Cafe Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1320 65th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0452 (Mexican) $$

Digs Bistro 1453 Dwight Way, Berkeley 510-548-2322 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] & [illegible] Armenian 1955 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley (510) 548-8[illegible] (Armenian) $$

Fellini 1401 University Ave., Berkeley 510-841-6205 (Italian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] Island Cafe 1957 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-704-1963 (Caribbean) $

[illegible] 1600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1666 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

IKEA 4400 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-420-4532 (Scandinavian/Furniture & Home Furnishings) $

Indus Village 1920 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-549-3909 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Halal) $

Jimmy Bean's 1290 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-528-3435 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Restaurant) $-$$

Juan's Place 941 Carleton St., Berkeley 510-845-6904 (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] 1830 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3095 (Indian/Pakistani/[illegible]) $

[illegible] Bar-B-Que 2613 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-1150 (Barbecue) $-$$

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-845-1652 (Pizza/Art Gallery) $

[illegible] Restaurante 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-848-4778 (Mexican/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] 1300 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-525-2021 (American/Organic/Sustainable) $

Priya Indian Cuisine 2072 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-2617 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 900 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1600 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] 3077 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-5238 (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Skates on the Bay 100 Seawall Dr., Berkeley, 510-549-1900 (American/Seafood) $$

Vik's 726 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4412 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

CONCORD, MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

[illegible] Ln. at Gregory and Cleveland, Pleasant Hill 925-676-5229 (Public Places)

El [illegible] 4750 Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-689-5009 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] 4375 Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-687-5708 (Peruvian/South American) $-$$

[illegible] Kabob 2099 Monument Blvd., Concord 925-849-5488 (Afghan/Persian) $

[illegible] 1815 Sutter St., Concord, 925-825-7777 (Eastern European/German/Austrian) $$

[illegible] Brewing Company and Barbecue 201 Salvio St., Suite L, Concord, 925-686-4753 (American/Brewpub) $-$$

Nico's Gyros and Hot Dogs 2415 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-687-6454 (Greek/Turkish) $

Hollywood Pizza, Pasta & More 1806 [illegible] St., Concord, 925-521-0900 (Italian/Pizza) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 2227 [illegible] Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-798-3338 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 1826 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, 925-685-8260 (Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Barbecue/Barbecue 600 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, (925) 691-3151 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

[illegible] 2151 Salvio St., Ste. I, Concord 925-521-8081 (Italian) $$-$$$

Left Bank Brasserie 60 Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill 925-288-1222 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Nibblers Eatery & Wine Bar 1922 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, 925-944-0402 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Los [illegible] 1089 [illegible] St., Concord, 925-685-7101 (Mexican) $

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

[illegible] 10500 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-525-[illegible] (Mexican) $

El Tambo 3746 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-222-0901 (Italian/Peruvian/South American) $$

[illegible] Pot Cafe 1788 [illegible] St., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Seafood) $-$$

[illegible] Chinese Restaurant 3288A Pierce St., Richmond 510-527-3888 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

The [illegible] Fish 10050 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-[illegible] (American/Seafood) $$-$$$

Hidden City Cafe 109 Park Pl., Point Richmond, 510-232-9738 (American/California Cuisine) $$

The [illegible] 221 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4022 (Deli/German/Austrian/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 5600 San Pablo Ave. Suite E, Richmond, 510-724-2332 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] Thai 11225 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-8306 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Taqueria La Bamba 12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond 510-235-2288 (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] Seafood Restaurant 11060 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-8847 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

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Cafe [illegible] 5600 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, 510-668-[illegible] (Chinese) $$-$$$

Chaat Cafe 3954 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-796-3408 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

[illegible] Tofu 1713 Decoto Rd., Union City 510-[illegible] (Korean) $

[illegible] 33330 [illegible] Blvd., Union City, 510-471-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

De Afghanan Kabob House 37405 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-9599 (Afghan/Middle Eastern) $-$$

The Deep-Fried [illegible] & Pastrami Shop 4004 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-794-7666 (Burgers/Sandwiches) $

[illegible] Restaurant 39[illegible] Washington Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Afghan/Halal/Middle Eastern) $-$$

Kinder's Custom Meats 43015 [illegible] Blvd., Fremont, 510-440-1568 (Burgers/Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Barbecue Barbecue 1688 Decoto Rd., Union City (510) 324-8898 (American/Barbecue) $

Little [illegible] 1773 Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-487-9168 (Chinese) $

Little Sichuan Cuisine 34420-D Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-608-6685 (Chinese) $

Lovely [illegible] and Sweets 41031 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-657-3422 (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] 38158 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont, 510-797-2708 (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Massimo's 5200 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-792-2000 (California Cuisine/Italian) $$$

Masala Cafe & Masala [illegible] 40900 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-623-8520 (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $

Salang Pass 37462 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-9200 (Afghan/Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $$

Udupi Palace 5988 New Park Mall Rd., Newark, 510-794-8400 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Woodlands 39203 Cedar Blvd., Newark, 510-494-9737 (Indian/Pakistani) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

A [illegible] Cafe 1[illegible] A St., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (French) $$$

Barbecue & [illegible] 21030 [illegible] Blvd., Hayward 510-278-7256 (Italian) $-$$

[illegible] Bakery 1072 B St., Hayward 510-889-9823 (Armenian/Bakery) $

Bon Appetito 517 5 St., Berkeley 510-247-0120 (Italian) $$

[illegible] 1769 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro, 510-895-8028 (Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] Curry 26857 Mission Blvd., Hayward 510-581-4003 (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] Armenian 290 A [illegible], Hayward 510-538-3122 (Salvadoran) $$

[illegible] Bar-B-Q Restaurant 22301 Mission Blvd., Hayward 510-886-7767 (Barbecue/Korean) $$

The Hayward Ranch 22777 Mission Blvd., Hayward 510-537-5622 (American/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

JJ's Restaurant and Pies 2837 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 510-881-9622 (Diner) $

L&L Barbecue Barbecue 27328 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 510-782-0880 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

[illegible] 747 5 St., Hayward, 510-583-8[illegible] (California Cuisine/Seafood) $$$

[illegible] Restaurant 1207 [illegible] St., San Leandro, 510-568-4785 (Korean) $$-$$$

Sam's Super Deli 18495 Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo 510-278-6330 (American/Deli) $

The [illegible] Ranch 21[illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-538-0500 (Seafood) $$

Thai [illegible] 1[illegible]76 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-351-2355 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Val's Burgers 2581 Kelly St., Hayward, 510-538-0252 (American/Diner) $

LAMORINDA

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 925-283-7133 (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cafe [illegible] 2 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2981 (American/Steak/Bakery) $$-$$$

Chow Lafayette 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette 925-962-2469 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

El Jarro [illegible] Cafe 3503 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 925-283-8088 (Mexican) $-$$

La Finestra Ristorante 100 Lafayette Circle Suite 104, Lafayette, 925-284-5287 (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] Restaurant 1 [illegible] Way, Orinda, 925-253-8857 (Chinese) $

Lily's Ranch 3555 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 925-284-7589 (Mexican) $$-$$$

[illegible] House Cafe 1512 School St., Moraga, 925-376-1127 (American) $-$$

Ristorante/[illegible] 380 Park St., Moraga, 925-377-7672 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Vino 3591 Plaza Way, Lafayette 925-284-1331 (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

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[illegible] 178 14th St., [illegible] 510-251

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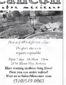
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R C

2753 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Battambang Restaurant 850 Broadway, Oakland, 510-839-8815. (Cambodian/Laotian/Seafood/Southeast Asian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

Binh Minh Quan 338 12th St., Oakland, 510-893-8136 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$$

Bocanova 55 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-1233 (California Cuisine/Caribbean/Central American/Nuevo Latino/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

La Borinqueña Mexicatessen 582 Oakland St., Oakland, 510-444-8854 (Mexican) $-$$

Garden of India 848 Clay St., Oakland, 510-839-7084 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Home Sugar Home 2534 Oakland Parkway, Oakland, 510-839-7920. (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Caffe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Ding Lee's 301 8th St., Oakland, 510-893-3396 (Chinese/Seafood) $

Le Cheval 1007 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-8495 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$-$$$

Soup Bar 241 Fourth St., Oakland, 510-834-2481 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

B&A Cafe 334 Eighth St., Oakland, 510-836-8233 (Chinese) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2350 (Barbecue) $$

La Peña Chilena 371 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4206. (Peruvian/South American) $$

Home of Chicken & Waffles 444 Embarcadero, Oakland, 510-836-4446 (American/Southern/Soul Food) $

Huynh 381 15th St., Oakland, 510-832-5238 (Vietnamese) $$

Oak Plaza Bar & Grill 105 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, 510-268-9786 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

San Francisco Soup Company 1300 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-7687 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Shanghai Restaurant 930 Webster St., Oakland, 510-465-6878 (Chinese) $-$$

Shashamane 2501 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-4213 (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Jeroz 300 Broadway, Oakland, 510-271-8100 (California Cuisine) $$$

Souley Vegan 438 13th St., Oakland, 510-313-9186 (Southern/Soul Food/Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$

Spice Monkey 1628 Webster St., Oakland, 510-238-0411 (California Cuisine) $$

Tay Ho 344 12th St., Oakland, 510-836-8385 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

T.J.'s Gingerbread House 741 5th St., Oakland, 510-444-7373 (Cajun/Creole/Southern/Soul Food) $$$-$$$$

Bay Dog 409 14th St., Suite 37, Oakland, 510-835-1064 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Kerry Willie's Bar-B-Que and Fish 584 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-9200 (Barbecue) $-$$

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200 (Japanese/Sushi/Bars/Music Venues) $$$

OAKLAND-EAST

Bo Le 1500 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8891 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Cam Wong Restaurant 712 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-444-3606 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Dominguez Restaurant 7731 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-4785 (Mexican) $

Chiang Garden 2032 8th Ave., Oakland, 510-238-8819 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Chapinlandia Restaurant 3030 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-436-8833 (Central American) $

Las Tinas 3440 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-336-3075 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 2676 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, (510) 533-0900 (Barbecue) $$

El Huarache Azteca 3842 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-2395 (Mexican) $

La Estrellita Cafe 446 East 12th St., Oakland, 510-465-7188 (American/Mexican/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

Nieves Cinco de Mayo 3340 #2 E. 12th St., Oakland, 510-533-8890 (Burgers/Ice Cream) $

Royal Tea Garden 2230 Livingston St., Oakland, 877-686-4882 (Breakfast/Brunch) $

El Ojo de Agua 3132 E. 12th St., Oakland (Mexican) $

Hacienda Mexicatessen 3872 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-9989 (Mexican) $-$$

Pho Ao Sen 200 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-839-6881 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pho Hoa Lao 120 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-451-8858 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pupuseria Lupita 3340 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-436-3834 (Central American) $

Oakland Original 3820 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-6480 (Barbecue/Mexican) $

Taqueria Sinaloa 2138 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-535-1206 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Zamorano 4341 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8525 (Mexican) $

La Torta Loca 3419 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-532-7185 (Mexican) $

OAKLAND PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

Barclays 4285 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-601-4005 (Italian/Burgers/Sandwiches/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Grand Lake Farmers' Market, Oakland, (415) 412-6180 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 4162 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-7180 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bay Wolf Cafe and Restaurant 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6004 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Bellanico 4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1180 (Italian/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bars) $$$

Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1088 (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Camino 3917 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5035 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

César Piedmont 4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-883-0222 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 4115 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-1034 (French) $$

Coach Sushi 532 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-7885 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Commis 3859 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3902 (California Cuisine/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

Dopo 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Grégoire 4001-B Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-547-3444 (French) $-$$

Gourmet Restaurant Sandwiches 2008 Antioch Ct., Oakland, 510-338-3721 (American) $

Holy Land 677 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535 (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $

Jong Ga House 372 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-7658 (Korean) $$

La Taza de Cafe 3909 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2373 (Spanish) $$

LoCoco's Restaurant 4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6222 (Italian/Pizza) $$

Mezze 3407 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-663-2500 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$$

Mijori Japanese 3706 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-8854 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

House Spot Bar & Grill 3411 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-268-1840 (Road House) $$

Tropix 3814 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2444 (Caribbean) $$

Z Cafe and Bar 2735 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2505 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Wine Bar) $-$$

Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124 (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6469 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0444 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cactus Taqueria 5642 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-6180 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Citron 5484 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5484 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/French) $$-$$$$

Gaylord India 5811 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-1463 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Garibaldi's 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000 (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Kirin's Sushi and Grill 5355 College Ave. #2, Oakland, 510-595-2386 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 5633 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-5490 (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$$

Khana Peena 5316 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2300 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] 4811 Lincoln St., Oakland, 510-965-8366 (Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Marica 5301 College Ave., Oakland, 510-985-8388 (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$

Noodle Theory 6099 Claremont Ave., Oakland, 510-595-6988 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

Oliveto 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Oliveto Cafe 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356 (Italian/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$$

Smokin' Woody's Bar-Be-Que 3415 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-350-8611 (Barbecue/American/Cajun/Creole/Southern/Soul Food) $$

Soi4 Bangkok Eatery 5421 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-0889 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Top Dog 5600 Broadway, Oakland, 510-601-1157 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uzen 5415 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-7753 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Wood Tavern 6317 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6607 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385 (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND TEMESCAL

Addis Ethiopian Restaurant 6100 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3456 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Temescal Farmers' Market, Oakland, (415) 412-6180 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Aunt Mary's Cafe 4307 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-9227 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1213 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

Barlata 4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0678 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$$

Burma Superstar 4721 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2900 (Southeast Asian) $$

Cafe Colucci 6427 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-7999 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casserole House 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-6301 (Korean) $

Koryo Sushi 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-0611 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbecue 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6007 (Korean) $$

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5350 (Pizza/Art Galleries) $

[illegible] 4075 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2300 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $-$$

[illegible] 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-655-5650 (California Cuisine) $$

Sahn Maru Korean Restaurant 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-8300 (Korean) $$-$$$

Pyung Chang Tofu House 4701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-9040 (Korean/Barbecue Asian) $$

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Yoshi Maru 5105 Telegraph Ave., [illegible] 510-653-3300 [illegible] $-$$

Tomate 4905 Telegraph Ave., [illegible] 510-653-8891 (Afghan/Moroccan/Spanish) $$$

TRI-VALLEY

Faces Again Deli 625 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-461-1274 (Mexican) $$$

[illegible] 21022 [illegible] St., Sunol, 925-862-0820 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Bridges 44 Church St., Danville, 925-820-7200 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

Cafe Esin 2416 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Suite 102, San Ramon, 925-314-0974 (California Cuisine) $$$

Las Caporales 3108 First St., Livermore, 925-443-4434 (Mexican) $

[illegible] Bistro 205 Rose Ave., Pleasanton, 925-462-0100 (French) $$-$$$

Denica's Cafe 620 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-4222 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $-$$

Hap's Original 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton, 925-600-9200 (American/Steak House) $$$

Kilohana Grill 5861-A Market Pl., San Ramon, 925-833-4144 (Hawaiian) $

[illegible] 115 Town & Country Dr., Suite G, Danville, 925-552-6300 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 4075 Hopyard Rd., Suite 17, Pleasanton, 925-461-3303 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Masala Indian Fusion 499 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, 925-362-4800 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] Pleasanton [illegible], San Ramon, 925-837-9387 (California Cuisine) $$$

The Peasant & the Pear 267 Hartz Ave., Danville, 925-820-6611 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Sergio's Trattoria 590 Bollinger Canyon Way, San Ramon, 925-866-1600 (Italian) $$-$$$

Taqueria El Ranchero 2510 [illegible] Pl., San Ramon, 925-328-0510 (Mexican) $

Zaatar Bistro 115 Alamo Plaza, Alamo, 925-855-9000 (California Cuisine/Eastern European) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 3110 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite 1, San Ramon, 925-244-1222 (Pizza) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

[illegible] Deli & [illegible] 5815 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-210-0370 (Eastern European) $$

Bing Crosby's 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek, 925-939-2464 (American/Steak House) $$$$

[illegible] 1375 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-407-3000 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Spice of India 1368 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7884 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Dragon 2000 1255 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, 925-291-[illegible] (Chinese) $-$$

Ephesus Kabob Lounge 1711 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-945-6382 (Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] Hamburger 5491 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-939-4988 (Diner) $

Havana 1516 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-939-4555 (California Cuisine/Cuban/Nuevo Latino) $$

Huynh 1512 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-952-8888 (Vietnamese) $$

Kinder's Meats 1838 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-952-8883 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] of India 1315 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, 925-938-2426 (Indian) $

Prima 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-935-7780 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$$

Ru's Tea Bistro 1800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-287-8788 (Chinese) $$-$$$

Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar 1511 Mount Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-979-0100 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Vic Stewart's 850 South Broadway, Walnut Creek, 925-943-5666 (Steak House) $$$-$$$$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

[illegible]: Mixologist [illegible] makes cocktails on the spot using Alameda syrups, liqueurs, and more, specialty spirits. Wednesdays, 5 p.m. Continues through June 11. Forbidden Island, 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332. ForbiddenIslandAlameda.com.

Budget Cooking: Top Ten Money-Saving Meals and Tips With BudgetSavvy core editor Melissa Tosetti and chef Mark Parker. Sat., Feb. 27, 9 a.m., $45. Chabot College, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, [illegible]-5300.

Charles Chocolates Factory Tour Opportunity to watch chocolatiers in production, followed by a Q&A. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m., free. Charles Chocolates Factory Store and Chocolate Bar, 6529 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-652-4412. CharlesChocolates.com.

Flight Night Featuring winemaker [illegible] of Page Mill Winery's locally-grown business noted for producing small quantities of high-quality wines. Call 925-456-2450 to make reservations. Last Thursday of every month, 5-7 p.m., $12-$25. Wente Vineyards Restaurant, 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450. WenteVineyards.com.

Oyster Night Oyster specialty plus guest DJs. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus locally prepared [illegible]. For info, visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Webster St. (at Haight Ave.), Webster St., Alameda.

Bayfair [illegible] Market Fresh produce specialty by [illegible] organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-357-6000. ShopBayfair.com.

Concord Farmers' Market With farmers selling locally-grown seasonal fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Todos Santos Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord, 925-671-3464.

Danville Certified Farmers' Market With Market selling fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, bedding plants, fresh flowers and specialty food items. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Railroad St. at Prospect St., Danville.

Farm Fresh Choice Community Farmers Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in culturally diverse, limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m., 510-548-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley, 510-981-5150. CityofBerkeley.info/[illegible].

Hayward Public Library Book Sale and Farmers' Market Call 510-881-7980 for info. Saturday Feb. 27. Fourth Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Second Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Dec. 11, free. Hayward City Hall Plaza, 777 B St., Hayward, 510-583-4100, www.ci.hayward.ca.us/about/cityhall.shtm.

Irvington Farmers' Market With Market selling California-grown fruits and vegetables in season. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bay St. at Fremont Blvd., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh California-grown fruits and vegetables. Located in the courtyard behind the main hospital. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With Market selling locally-grown California produce in the main hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Martinez Farmers' Market With locally-grown seasonal fruits and vegetables. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Permanente Martinez Medical Office, 200 Muir Rd., Martinez.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market With fresh fruits, nuts, greens, vegetables, and flowers. Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Medical Center Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market With vendors selling seasonal produce on the cafeteria lawn. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a variety fresh from an organic Pescadero farm, fresh wild fish, herbs and vegetables, eggs, honey, fresh market pasta, and seasonal surprises. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. [illegible] Circle at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market Sponsored and maintained by Oakland Food Connection, a nonprofit that strives to promote nutritional awareness, access to healthy foods and the connections between people and our planet. The Laurel Farmers' Market offered organic produce from ALP Organic Farm based out of Salinas, CA and a youth-led prepared food booth to fuel the Purple Lawn Cafe. For more info or to find out how to become a vendor please contact Tori at tori@oaklandfoodconnection.org, or call 510-[illegible]. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel Farmers' Market, 4073 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

North Shattuck Farmers' Market Organic specialty foods, all organic produce and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pinole Farmers' Market With [illegible] and vendors selling fresh California-grown produce. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Fernandez Ave. at Pear St., Pinole.

Pleasanton Farmers' Market With seasonal fruit and vegetables, plus Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosting cat and dog adoptions. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Pleasanton Farmers' Market, West Angela St., Pleasanton.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-981-6720. ■

PICK

Budget Cooking Class

Eating well can cost a lot, especially in this economy. Learn how to feast for less with **"Budget Cooking: Top Ten Money-Saving Meals and Tips,"** a class taught by BudgetSavvy core editor Melissa Tosetti and chef Mark Parker in room 807 at **Chabot College** (25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward) on Saturday, Feb. 27. The class includes shopping strategies, kitchen shortcuts, superstar ingredients, utensil skills and more. 9 a.m. $39 plus $6 materials fee. BudgetSavvyMag.com. — *Anneli Rufus*

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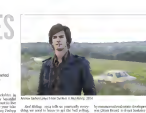
MOVIES

OLD YORK, OLO YORK

Dark satanic mills and black-hearted villains in the *Red Riding Trilogy*

By Kelly Vance



Andrew Garfield plays Eddie Dunford in *Red Riding: 1974*

The vast, soggy county of Yorkshire in Northern England is ruggedly beautiful to look at, but you wouldn't want to live there. And if that was already your take on the place, then the *Red Riding Trilogy* — a grand, rambling panorama of misery and cruelty in the form of a detective story — will harden your prejudice to stone.

Ostensibly a behind-the-scenes account of the investigation into a series of vicious sex crimes against young women and girls in the Seventies and Eighties, the three linked films — *Red Riding: 1974* by Julian Jarrold, *Red Riding: 1980* by James Marsh, and *Red Riding: 1983* by Anand Tucker — achieve what some people like to call "epic sweep," but it's a very dismal sweep indeed. At some point in the proceedings, we cease to give a damn about who the actual "Yorkshire Ripper" is. The screen is so crowded with monsters, anyone will do. Nonetheless, this magnificent mess of a trilogy is a definite must-see.

David Peace, author of *The Damned United*, wrote *Red Riding* as a quartet of fictionalized, neo-noir novels based on the sensationalized real-life Yorkshire Ripper case. The property was acquired by Revolution Films and subsequently adapted by screenwriter Tony Grisoni (*Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *Tideland*) into the present chronological trilogy with each leg directed by a different filmmaker. To achieve the full effect, it helps to see the three films as close together as possible, in sequential order. (At the Shattuck, show times are conveniently staggered throughout the week. But if you're intrepid and want to take in the entire trilogy in one day, be sure to set aside Sunday, February 28 or Thursday, March 4.)

Red Riding: 1974 tells us practically everything we need to know to get the ball rolling. Against a background of misty moors, the Pennine Hills, nuclear cooling towers, and weather-beaten Victorian-era brick row homes, ambitious young reporter Eddie Dunford of the *Yorkshire Post* (played by Andrew Garfield) follows his news instincts and begins investigating the kidnapping of young Clare Kemplay.

To Eddie the Kemplay case resembles other recent disappearances and murders in West Yorkshire a little too closely for comfort. To his scoffing editor, Bill Hadley (John Henshaw), and the paper's equally crotchety chief crime reporter, Jack Whitehead (Eddie Marsan, belching his lines), that's old news, buried and forgotten. Besides, all this digging has the potential to upset the *Post's* working-class-male readership.

We hear variations on that theme throughout the trilogy. "Leave it alone." "This is the North. We do what we want." Thick Yorkshire accents notwithstanding, it's easy to understand that something is rotten in Leeds, and that the rottenness has everything to do with the nakedly venal and misogynist attitude of the region's old-boy network — which includes the police, the news media, and the business establishment, the latter represented by commercial real estate developer John Dawson (Sean Bean), a closet kinkster. The closer Eddie Dunford gets to the connections between the Ripper murders and the local power pyramid, the more he gets beat up. Blame the gypos (Gypsies), paddies, and queers, but don't ask too many questions.

Besides Dawson, jowly political fixer Bill "the Badger" Molloy (Warren Clarke), and detective Maurice Jobson (David Morrissey), Eddie's main opponents — by far the most memorable repugnant — are the constables in charge of breaking his knuckles and hanging him on meat hooks. The worst of these is Bob Craven (Sean Harris), a lanky rat-faced sadist who practices his arts in all three installments. All that punishment evidently makes Eddie randy as well as bruised. In between beatings and clandestine meetings with similarly doomed journo Barry Gannon (Anthony Flanagan), he finds time to have sex with *Post* colleague Kathryn Tyler (Michelle Dockery) as well as Paula Garland (Rebecca Hall), the mother of a Ripper victim.

Red Riding: 1974
Directed by Julian Jarrold
With Andrew Garfield
Opens Friday

Red Riding: 1980
Directed by James Marsh
With Paddy Considine
Opens Friday

Red Riding: 1983
Directed by Anand Tucker
With David Morrissey
Opens Friday

Quite a carpet of corruption. Novelist Peace was evidently inspired by the writing of James Ellroy, with its twisted, interlocking Los Angeles conspiracies. In an Ellroy fiction the hunk is wide-ranging, beyond the horizon. Certainly the old boys' vice squad/prostitution/pornography/naked little girls combination resounds with favorite Ellroy flavors. But *Red Riding* is stuck in the slow lane.

The bleak, filthy post-industrial landscape and the clumpy cabal of cops, pols, and entrepreneurs in *Red Riding* give the Yorkshire rackets an ingrown feel, a plain stamp of provincialism that closes ranks and excludes all outsiders — poof reporters, the pathetic victims' mothers in the slums, "Romans" (Catholic-beating is a street-corner sport), and even do-gooder cops like Peter Hunter (Paddy Considine), brought in from Manchester in 1980 to clean up the Ripper scandal with its unsolved cases.

Hunter, too, runs afoul of the North Country. The boys on the force hate him instinctively. Added to that, he has marital problems. Same thing with Detective Chief Superintendent Jobson, aka "the Owl," the "weak sister" cop who steps to the forefront in 1983. The other 1983 protagonist, and one of the trilogy's few outright heroes, is John Piggott (Mark Addy), a fat, sloppy lawyer from the depressed Fitzwilliam district who represents Michael Myshkin (Daniel Mays), a simple-minded neighborhood fellow wrongfully convicted of one of the murders. Jobson and Piggott have their doubts but only one of them has the courage to act.

All three films are filled with people either too corrupt or too scared to take even a step toward the truth. You get sick of looking at these sallow faces with their dead eyes, tired of hearing their accents, tired of their bad haircuts and their casual brutality. After the brisk nastiness of parts one and two, 1983 is a bit of a letdown. We're disgusted and want to get it over with. But once it's finished it lingers in the mind.

Addy, Bean, Peter Mullan (as Catholic priest and Fitzwilliam community organizer Martin Laws), nasty cop Harris, Hall, and especially Garfield (Eddie Dunford the newsman is our first and best tour guide) walk away with acting honors in the huge recurring cast. Of the three legs, the most accomplished is probably Marsh's 1980. The director of *Man on Wire* and *The King* takes what should have been the trilogy's weakest link and reaches for the stars — the sadness in Considine's eyes as the overwhelmed Peter Hunter. He at least has the option of going home to Manchester (own wire or another), away from this chilly bog of tortured souls. Everyone else, these forsaken sons of York, are trapped there forever. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.hy pe/redriding

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrew Greenwell (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.) and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com.

OPENING

Cop Out Nothing to see here. Keep moving. Bruce Willis and Tracy Morgan are [illegible] cops movie [illegible] after their clumsy pursuit of a [illegible] drug deal erupts into a neighborhood shootout. They spend the rest of the story waving around their guns and badges, but this is the sort of movie so crushingly formulaic that even continuity seems refreshing. Director Kevin Smith adds a patina of his idiosyncratic character comedy to a script by TV brought Robb and Mark Cullen (*Pilot*, *Las Vegas*), but to no avail. If this ever turns up as an in-flight movie, [illegible] have to [illegible] a beer. With Kevin Pollak and Adam Brody. (J.J.) BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CN, CCC, RCC, WWS

The Greatest [illegible] stars in this small-town movie. [illegible] BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CCC

Formosa Betrayed So a lone FBI agent (played by James Van Der Beek), circa 1983, inadvertently pops up the entire secret structure of the Taiwan government? That's what this earnest-looking, arguably tiresome movie — we wouldn't call it much of a "thriller" — would have us believe. Agent Jake Kelly (Van Der Beek) gets sent to Taipei to investigate the murder, in Chicago, of a dissident Taiwanese-American professor. Once there, he learns a few things. Taiwan is feverishly anti-Communist. It's run by a consortium of gangsters and Nationalist Chinese who use drug money to buy US arms. It mistreats the native Taiwanese population, and it's mixed up in the Iran-Contra business. Balancing all this on the head of a pin is TV move-over Andrew [illegible] from a [illegible] by [illegible]. Much of it [illegible] will [illegible] (K.V.) CUC, S

The Ghost Writer Ewan McGregor, Kim Cattrall and Pierce Brosnan star in this movie about a ghostwriter attempting to complete the memoirs of a former British Prime Minister. Directed by Roman Polanski.

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Karthik Calling Karthik Vijay Lalwani directs the story of a recluse being brought out of his shell by a man who claims to share his name. Deepika Padukone, Farhan Akhtar and Shefali Shetty star. DOC

Red Riding Trilogy Adapted from David Peace's quartet of novels on the dark underside of the Northern English county of Yorkshire, these three interlocking detective stories follow the investigation, and lack of, into the Yorkshire Ripper murders in the 1970s and '80s, when a swath of young women and girls were kidnapped, beaten, raped, and murdered, and the local police, press, and business establishment did their best to cover it all up. *Red Riding 1974*, directed by Julian Jarrold, stars Andrew Garfield as an inquisitive newspaper [illegible]. But

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** • Albany. **ATC** • Alameda Theatre & Cineplex. **BC** • Brenden Concord. **BH** • Blackhawk. **BP** • Brenden Pittsburg. **BS** • Bay Street. **CA** • California. **CAPH** • CineArts Pleasant Hill. **CB** • Century Bayfair. **CCC** • Contra Costa Cinemas. **CEPH** • Century Pleasant Hill. **CH** • Century Hilltop. **CHT** • Century Hayward. **CN** • Cinedome Newark. **CRC** • Crow Canyon. **CSC** • Chabot Space and Science. **CUC** • Century Union City. **CWC** • Century Walnut Creek. **DV** • Deer Valley. **GL** • Grand Lake. **JL** • Jack London. **LP** • La Peña. **NS** • Naz 8. **OA** • [illegible]. **OR** • Orinda. **PM** • Piedmont. **RA** • Regal Antioch. **RCC** • Rialto Cinemas Cerrito. **RE** • Rialto Cinemas Elmwood. **RH** • Regal Hacienda. **SG** • [illegible] Theater. **S** • Shattuck. **UAB** • UA Berkeley. **UAES** • UA Emery Bay. **V** • Vine. **WWS** • West Wind Solano.

Riding: 1980 by James Marsh [illegible] as a police inspector (Paddy Considine) who can't make any headway. Anand Tucker's 1983 installment wraps the whole sordid mess up in a bloody burlap bag. There are weak spots, but the cumulative effect of a vast tapestry of malice, [illegible] corruption targeting anyone who isn't a local good old boy [illegible] is strangely rewarding, ultimately. Adapted by Tony Grisoni. Also with Sean Bean, Jim Carter, Mark Addy, and David Morrissey (1974: 105 min.; 1980: 96 min.; 1983: 104 min.) (KLV)

Teen Patti Leena Yadav directs this [illegible] battle [illegible] a pair of mathematicians. Starring Amitabh Bachchan, Ben Kingsley, and Madhavan (NC)

ONGOING

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel The Chipmunks are an acquired taste. Some of your friends will not understand — much like the Three Stooges or Jerry Lewis. But Chipmunk fans of all ages will find plenty to squeal about in [illegible] fast-paced [illegible] comedy, a mix of animation and live action that finds the boys continuing with their ongoing 50-year showbiz career (they haven't aged five minutes), going to high school, a rival group of female singing chipmunks called the Chipettes, and their sleazy ex-manager (David Cross). Bagdasarian Productions' [illegible] is too-much, the writing, by three woodland creatures, somewhat pat, too. Directed amiably by Betty Thomas (for the record, I liked it) [illegible] (92 min.) (KLV) (BC, BP, CB, CH, CUC, [illegible])

An Education A precocious middle-class London high-school student named Jenny (in a magnetic performance by Carey Mulligan) falls head over heels for an urbane, generous Svengali named David (Peter Sarsgaard) [illegible] and takes off with him to the opera, a trip to Paris, etc., circa 1961. But there's something a bit dodgy about David and his friends. Danish [illegible] director Lone Scherfig (Italian for Beginners) tells this cautionary tale with a minimum of visual and verbal style and [illegible] at the end, led by Mulligan and Sarsgaard. Alfred Molina as Jenny's [illegible] dad, Emma Thompson and [illegible] as the concerned school masters, and Sally [illegible] all a [illegible]. The smart screenplay was adapted by [illegible] Nick Hornby from a memoir by journalist Lynn Barber (95 min.) (KLV) (CAPH, [illegible])

Avatar Five years in the making, three hours in the screening. Veteran director James Cameron (The Terminator, The Abyss, Titanic) aims for epic sweep with his story of rapacious earthlings invading the heavily jungled planet of Pandora and trying to eliminate the tall, [illegible] blue-skinned natives in order to steal their minerals. The CGI [illegible] are certainly gorgeous — fire-lit forests, dinosaurs, flying dragons, [illegible], and [illegible] — but the screenplay is strictly [illegible]. The [illegible] and the [illegible] is laughable. There's a good guy, a commissioned soldier named Jake (Sam Worthington) who rebels against his role as a shape-shifting Avatar warrior — but he gets lost in the shuffle. The US military-industrial bad guys (Stephen Lang, Giovanni Ribisi) are standard-issue, as are the Na'Vi ethnopeople, including Jake's princess girlfriend (voice of Zoe Saldana). Even the King of the [illegible] [illegible] (161 min.) (KLV) (BC, BS, [illegible], BP, CMC, CB, CAPH, CH, CUC, [illegible], CCC, GL, RA, RH, UAB)

The Blind Side Based on the nonfiction [illegible] Michael Lewis, this good-hearted tale tells the story of [illegible] — a gigantic black teenager from impoverished West Memphis who was accepted as a charity case by a local Christian academy and taken in and ultimately adopted by a wealthy white family. He became an All-America [illegible] tackle who was drafted in the first round last year by the Baltimore Ravens. The story is inspiring and involves sports, but to call it an inspirational sports story would be wrong. Its real center is Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock in a [illegible] performance), the strong-willed mother whose love and generosity helped turn a [illegible], hopeless boy with no social or [illegible] skills into a functioning young man with a promising future. Some will call the whole [illegible] paternalistic, and they may well be right, but as a fable about the power of giving, it [illegible] pretty good. John Lee Hancock (The Rookie) directs his own [illegible] with Tim McGraw, Kathy Bates, and Quinton Aaron as Michael Oher (128 min.) (KLV) (CMC, RA, RCC, UAB)

The Book of Eli Denzel Washington stars in the post-apocalyptic fable as the guardian of a [illegible] that may contain the answer to [illegible] humanity's sorry state and their possible redemption. Gary Oldman co-stars as a local heavy who [illegible] by the Hughes brothers (118 min.) (BS, BC, BP, CB, CH, CUC, RA, RH, [illegible], UAB)

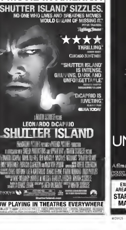
Chance Pe Dance [illegible] Genelia D'Souza and [illegible] star in this tale of a young man trying to break into Bollywood. Directed by Ken Ghosh.

Crazy Heart Jeff Bridges gives a signature career performance as Bad Blake, a graying, drinking country music singer-songwriter bent on drinking himself and [illegible] on a [illegible] tour of [illegible] bars and bowling alleys. To the rescue comes Jean (Maggie Gyllenhaal), a single mother with a few miles on her as well, and Tommy Sweet, Bad's one-time protégé, now a rising country star (Colin Farrell). Can the old boss turn himself around? The well-worn screenplay adapted by director Scott Cooper from Thomas Cobb's novel [illegible] what Bridges discovers and one of his songs. They were written by T Bone Burnett with Stephen Bruton and Ryan Bingham, and Bridges sings them with [illegible] authority. He grabs hold of the [illegible] Kris Kristofferson and shakes it like a rag doll. Also with Robert Duvall and Paul Herman (111 min.) (KLV) (BC, BP, CMC, CUC, CAPH, RB, CA, PM, RA, RH, Y)

Dear John An inconsequential two-hanky [illegible] women's pic disguised as an inconsequential home-front war [illegible], courtesy [illegible] Lasse Hallström and novelist Nicholas Sparks. An [illegible] soldier (Channing Tatum) with a pathologically shy father (Richard Jenkins) meets a vapid, bland rich girl (Amanda Seyfried from Jennifer's Body) while on leave in their hometown of Charleston, SC, from 2001. He [illegible] out for some wars, they dissolve and [illegible], and that's it. There [illegible] a bit more narrative [illegible] not to [illegible] the battle scenes. Jenkins and Henry Thomas lend [illegible] character support, but it's not enough. Hallström has a history of [illegible] projects (The Cider House Rules, Chocolat, The Shipping News). Chalk up one more (108 min.) (KLV) (BC, BP, CMC, RB, CAPH, CH, CUC, CCC, CRC, RA, RH, L, UAB)

Edge of Darkness Police drama [illegible] a detective (Mel Gibson) investigating the death of his daughter. Directed by Martin Campbell (117 min.) (BC, [illegible], CAPH, CH, CUC, RA, RH, L, UAB)

Fantastic Mr. Fox Maybe all along Wes Anderson was an [illegible] waiting to break out, and perhaps his live-action movies were only [illegible] for this masterful retelling of Roald Dahl's slender tale of a semi-retired fox (voice of George Clooney) and his animal friends and neighbors planning one last raid on the ridiculously [illegible] of three mean old [illegible]. Maybe. But there's no denying that the stop-motion [illegible], the attention to artistic detail, and the general [illegible] of Fantastic Mr. Fox are triumphant evidence of Anderson's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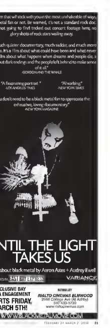
"It's a film that will stick with you in the most unshakeable of ways, black metal fan or not. Be warned, it's not a standard rock doc. You're not going to find tricked out concert footage here, no glory shots of rock stars wailing away.
It's a much quieter documentary, much sadder, and much more effective. It's a film about what could have been and what never was, a film about what happens when dreams and people die, a film about dark endings and the people left behind to make sense of it all."
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storytelling talent, and that everything from the supporting voice roles (Bill Murray, Meryl Streep, Willem Dafoe, Michael Gambon, et al.) to the crafty team of animators work like a charm. How can Anderson (*The Royal Tenenbaums*, *The Darjeeling Limited*) ever go back to ordinary live action? (87 min.) (K,V,WCE)

From Paris With Love Jonathan Rhys Meyers seems along for a fun Travolta in this story of an undercover CIA agent and his first big job. Pierre Morel directs, co-written by Luc Besson. (LS, DR, DEPH, CH, CLC, SA, RH, L, UAR)

[illegible] Kareena Khan, Shahrukh Sen and [illegible] Khan star in this comedy about the search for a marriage partner [illegible] in Mumbai. UAR

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus Terry Gilliam's finest and most emotionally expressive film since *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* tells a bittersweet children's bedtime tale for discerning grown-ups. The eponymous, centuries-old philosopher-charlatan (Christopher Plummer, riveting) and his troupe wander the underbelly of modern-day England in a caravan, putting on shows and making unsuspecting squares take a psychedelic soul-searching behind a magic mirror. All the while, Parnassus' gambler [illegible] is making bets with the Devil (Tom Waits) involving the doctor's delectable teenage daughter (Lily Cole). We expect the visual elements in a Gilliam project to be fantastic as well as disturbing, but there's an extra dimension in this blissfully fantastic morality play: the final performance of Heath Ledger, as a [illegible] stranger adopted by Parnassus. When Ledger died during production his role was [illegible] by a rotating trio of stars in tandem: Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Colin Farrell. See it on the biggest screen you can and be blown away. Co-written by Gilliam and Charles McKeown. (122 min.) (K,V,SE, UAEB)

Invictus Newly elected president Nelson Mandela (played by Morgan Freeman with poise and circumstance) uses rugby and especially Springbok captain Francois Pienaar (played by Matt Damon with Afrikaans accent) to help unite black and white in post-apartheid South Africa. The sports sequences at the 1995 Rugby World Cup are stunning and director Clint Eastwood knows how to milk a moral procedural for all it's worth. The Anthony Peckham screenplay (adapted from John Carlin's book) begins to fill in all the most necessary of the dramatic moments. Might as well have been a documentary. Actor Tony Kgoroge does a nice job with the part of Mandela's security chief. (134 min.) (K,V,SE, UAEB)

Ishqiya Vidya Balan, Naseeruddin Shah and Arshad Warsi star in this tale of [illegible] romance. [illegible] by Abhishek Chaubey.

It's Complicated How to turn a routine, middle-aged romantic comedy into sudden gold: Hire Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, and Steve Martin to portray a successful (what else?) but lonely restaurant owner, her divorced but still interested [illegible] and the meek [illegible] she hires to [illegible], respectively. Their charm and [illegible] work. Writer-director Nancy Meyers has made a career directing these mid-level rom-coms (*Baby Boom*, *Father of the Bride*, etc.) and this time she's blessed with a blue-ribbon cast, plus a surprising amount of sex. The laughs keep on coming in spite of the sorry state this. (120 min.) (K,V,SE, UAEB)

The Last Station Filmmaker Michael Hoffman's old-fashioned literary tale stars Christopher Plummer as aged Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy and Helen Mirren as his cantankerous wife Sofya, battling the Russian master over his estate planning. When Plummer and Mirren go into their splendid marital hysterics, it's upstaged by counterparts. When James McAvoy as a diffident Tolstoy acolyte and Paul Giamatti as Tolstoy's scheming chief disciple are onscreen, [illegible] Hoffman's screenplay, adapted from the novel by Jay Parini, opts for a straightforward chronicle of Tolstoy's end days. It may be a little too straight. Reason more [illegible] than McAvoy's character and his sometime girlfriend (Kerry Condon) to go with the [illegible] (112 min.) 2009 rated R. (K,V,CAPH, DR, AL, PM, V)

Legion Biblical fervor [illegible] this apocalyptic tale. Paul Bettany and Dennis Quaid star. (100 min.) (LBB, D)

The Lovely Bones Filmmaker Peter Jackson (*Lord of the Rings*) spends too much time and energy in heaven (or is it purgatory?), tramping through fields of [illegible] with newly murdered teenage Susie Salmon (Saoirse Ronan from *Atonement*) who actually on heaven starts the revenge on the murderer (Stanley Tucci in creepy mode) from up there in the heavenly glades while her grieving (Mark Wahlberg, Rachel Weisz) grieve for the down below. More interesting than [illegible] are the earthly interactions of Susie, her family, and her friends in their Seventies-era Pennsylvania suburb [illegible] the fells prey. [illegible] Jackson, who adapted Alice Sebold's novel with Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens — handled this same type of material much more convincingly in his 1994 drama *Heavenly Creatures*. Also with Susan Sarandon and Michael Imperioli. (135 min.) (K,V,CC, PA)

The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers Documentary makers Judith Ehrlich and Rick Goldsmith give us a thorough history lesson on Daniel Ellsberg, the [illegible] "war thinker" policy maker whose change of conscience in 1969 led to his liberating the so-called "Pentagon Papers." The [illegible] of that "secret history of the Vietnam war" changed the concept of government secrecy forever, and Ellsberg has been either proclaimed as a traitor or welcomed as a hero ever since, depending on your politics. Then-President Richard Nixon comes off as a [illegible], but then we already knew that. Still, the relevance today. (92 min.) (S

My Name Is Khan Shahrukh Khan stars in this post-9/11-themed drama, [illegible] by Karan Johar. (CIC, UAEB)

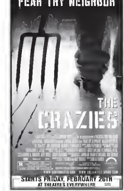
Mysteries of Egypt [illegible] Geographic and a team to [illegible] reveal the architecture, legends, history — and most importantly, mysteries — of ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC

North Face (Nordwand) North Face: In 1936 Nazi Germany, two Bavarian mountaineers (played by Benno Fürmann and Florian Lukas) enter the competition to scale the treacherous North Face of Switzerland's Eiger Mountain, [illegible] by the Nazi government's propaganda machinery. Once they get up on the rock wall and the fields, [illegible] all political [illegible] takes a backseat to some of the most thrilling mountain-climbing [illegible] ever put on film. Director and co-screenwriter Philipp Stölzl achieves incredible realism in the film's Swiss and Austrian locations, and the [illegible] a [illegible] of Nazi [illegible] to the [illegible] story through. Costarring Johanna Wokalek as a [illegible] reporter and Ulrich Tukur as a [illegible] newspaper editor. (121 min.) (S

Oscar Nominated Shorts 2010 This grab bag of [illegible] both animated and live-action [illegible] is definitely worthwhile. The animations have a slight edge, especially *Logorama*, a wonderfully sudden "police thriller" [illegible] and on every corporate logo known to humanity, including Ronald McDonald as a [illegible] maniac. Also superb: Nick Park's [illegible] Wallace & Gromit adventure *A Matter of Loaf and Death*, and *Kavi*, writer-director Gregg Helvey's [illegible] look at the life of a young boy [illegible] as a [illegible] maker in contemporary India. (95 min.) (S

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning

Cop Out.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The Ghost Writer

Thief Filmmaker Chris Columbus brings combat Greek mythology to contemporary [illegible] in this physical, conceptually unimaginative [illegible] of [illegible] fantasy involving [illegible] New York City teen Percy, and [illegible] (played by Logan Lerman). Seems Percy, offspring of his mortal mother (Catherine Keener) and the god Poseidon (Kevin McKidd), is gifted [illegible] powers and it's up to him — with help from fellow demi-gods Annabeth [illegible] (daughter of Athena) and goat-legged satyr [illegible] — to go [illegible] for Zeus' stolen lightning bolt, now in Hades. The hamming is nothing short of heavenly for Pierce Brosnan (Chiron), Sean Bean (Zeus), [illegible] (Persephone), and Joe Pantoliano (as Percy's [illegible] stepdad); the the grand [illegible] of Uma Thurman as snake-headed Medusa. It's also a pleasure to [illegible] Steve Coogan [illegible]. Craig Titley adapted the screenplay from [illegible] young adult novel (119 min.) (PG) [illegible]

Pirate Radio For people who can never get enough [illegible] the soundtrack [illegible] the year. For practically anyone else can find a laugh in the antics of a crew of radio deejays featuring the Kinks, The Troggs, [illegible], Jeff Beck, Dusty Springfield, et al. of England [illegible] from a ship anchored in the North Sea. On board are Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rhys Ifans, Bill Nighy, Nick Frost, and [illegible] among the deejays, with a [illegible] Kenneth Branagh as the sinister government [illegible] to shut them down, and Emma Thompson as somebody's mod mum. It's a vinyl [illegible] summer story on the high seas, [illegible] with infectious glee by [illegible] Curtis (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) from his own screenplay. [illegible] title: *The Boat That Rocked.* (135 min.) (R) [illegible]

Precious Urban horror story [illegible] harrowing [illegible] study, and a delight of [illegible] film. First-time actor Gabourey Sidibe [illegible] with her whole body and seemingly her [illegible] being as Precious Jones, a Harlem [illegible] 1987 who suffers all the slings and arrows and monumentally abusive parents one has at her [illegible] Through it all, Precious' facial expression goes from monolithically unknowable to awakening to discernment — a remarkable transformation [illegible] Lee Daniels (*Shadowboxer*), [illegible] from Geoffrey Fletcher's adaptation of author Sapphire's young adult novel, doesn't spare [illegible] Precious' humiliation, but he [illegible] upside, either. Fine [illegible] by Mo'Nique as the [illegible] mother [illegible] situations, and Mariah Carey unrecognizable as a welfare officer (110 min.) (R) [illegible]

The Princess and the Frog Disney's return to hand-drawn animation pays off triumphantly in this charming, fairy-tale romantic comedy, set in old New Orleans and the surrounding bayou and filled with [illegible], lovely situations, and a rich tour of African-American characters. In a clever [illegible] the princess — a poor young woman named Tiana (Anika Noni Rose) kisses the [illegible] prince-turned-frog, and she turns into a frog herself. Amusing voice cast: Keith David (evil [illegible]), Jenifer Lewis, Oprah Winfrey, Terrence Howard, John Goodman, Michael-Leon Wooley and Jim Cummings as Ray the Cajun firefly. If this is any indication of Pixar's effect on Planet Mouse, the merger was one of the best moves Disney ever made. Directed by Ron Clements and John Musker from a screenplay they cooked up [illegible] four other writers. Welcome back, Disney! (97 min.) (G) [illegible]

Sherlock Holmes Robert Downey Jr. [illegible] and brawls as the famed English sleuth while Jude Law [illegible] as [illegible] partner [illegible] Dr. Watson. [illegible] a [illegible] on the trail of a mysterious black-magic [illegible] trying to overthrow the British government. It's [illegible] a [illegible] project, but the story is soggy, grimy [illegible] London. [illegible] the boys so perfect [illegible] the [illegible] Punch and Judy [illegible] combat [illegible] employed in [illegible] (*Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*) and his other lad-friendly [illegible]. Did I mention that somehow [illegible] be entertaining? With [illegible] by Mark Strong as the bad guy, Eddie Marsan as [illegible] Lestrade, and Rachel McAdams, [illegible] as Holmes' [illegible] and fellow combatant, Irene Adler. The new story and screenplay [illegible] drama, [illegible] of the situations [illegible] Conan Doyle [illegible] for [illegible] and Downey [illegible] and he's having fun — a good sign (128 min.) (PG-13) [illegible]

Shutter Island Having Martin Scorsese direct a 50s psychological thriller [illegible] is like inviting a [illegible] chef over [illegible] and some hot dogs and open a can of baked beans. US [illegible] Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo [illegible] a ferry boat to a [illegible] mental institution on the title locale in the stormy waters off Boston to investigate one mystery, and they end up facing several [illegible] Ben Kingsley and Max Von Sydow [illegible] patient (Patricia [illegible] or Emily Mortimer, take your pick) [illegible] guards, the DiCaprio character's bad dreams about his late family and his [illegible] experiences, etc. He sees dead people. This [illegible] of [illegible]. From the novel by Dennis Lehane of *Mystic River* fame, it nowhere near as well [illegible] as that drama, and the screenplay adaptation by Laeta Kalogridis is no help at all. Worse than that, we can tell that Scorsese's heart just isn't in it. Costarring Jackie Earle Haley and Ted Levine. Miss this boat (138 min.) (R) [illegible]

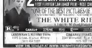
A Single Man Colin Firth, as a 1960s-era closeted gay man mourning the death of his longtime lover, gives a [illegible] (almost the [illegible]) [illegible] designer-turned-filmmaker Tom Ford's adaptation of Christopher Isherwood's novel. Time [illegible] Ford's [illegible] visuals, heavy on the [illegible] of English [illegible] George's [illegible] and [illegible] with [illegible] Adding an extra layer of [illegible] Julianne Moore as George's [illegible] employed in [illegible] padded out with [illegible] screenplay by Ford and [illegible]. Prime [illegible] (101 min.) (R) [illegible]

[illegible] The story of everyone's favorite flaming [illegible] (PG) [illegible]

The Spy Next Door Flashy comedy about [illegible] CIA agent Bob Ho (Jackie Chan), who [illegible] apparently [illegible] with terrorists but not babysitting. Also stars [illegible] as Chan's girlfriend. Directed by Brian Levant (92 min.) [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] take a trip inside the gates of NASA for an IMAX-enhanced view of everything from training to lift-off (43 min.) [illegible]

Tooth Fairy For the crime of [illegible] a [illegible] self-centered, pugnacious ice hockey player (Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson) is sentenced [illegible] to [illegible] an actual tooth fairy, complete with wings and fairy dust. [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] good-behavior [illegible] are the [illegible] of Julie Andrews as the fairy godmother and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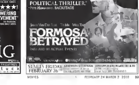
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MAT

Billy Crystal [illegible] wise-mouth [illegible] screenwriting [illegible] Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel [illegible] by two teams of script [illegible] spending their twilight years. Also [illegible] the suddenly maturity Ashley Judd. Directed [illegible] by [illegible] (111 min.) (R.V.)BR, BC, EP, CR, [illegible] CW, [illegible] RA, [illegible]

Up in the Air George Clooney once again [illegible] a slick corporate flier with a hidden conscience. Here, he's a [illegible] (Juno) [illegible] Clooney [illegible] American [illegible] Valentine [illegible] the hundreds and [illegible] Berkeley [illegible] a newly [illegible] business-school [illegible] Anna Kendrick [illegible] screenplay by Reitman and Sheldon Turner from Walter Kirn's novel [illegible] of the 21st century [illegible]

a handful of pointed, witty scenes and figured as laugh at them. [illegible] frequent [illegible] (108 min.) (R.V.)CWC, CEPH, CUC, CR, CCC, PM, CRC, PH, [illegible]

Valentine's Day Light, fluffy, instantly forgettable anthology-style [illegible] director Garry Marshall a chance to spread his [illegible] of schmaltz over an all-star roll of characters in different [illegible] of romantic entanglements: Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Julia Roberts, Eric Dane, Ashton Kutcher, [illegible] Jennifer Garner, Shirley MacLaine, [illegible] Anne Hathaway as a phone sex entertainer but it really doesn't matter. The writing by Katherine Fugate, Abby Kohn, and Marc Silverstein is enough to make you [illegible] (125 min.) (R.V.)ATC, BG, HC, BP, CWC, CR, CTPH, CR, CUC, CM, EM, CCC, [illegible] CRC, RA, [illegible] RCC, WWS

[illegible] Comedy [illegible] a New Yorker [illegible] Bell [illegible] in Rome after [illegible] from a magical fountain of love. Directed by Dave Steven Johnson [illegible] CWC, CUC, RA, PH

The White Ribbon (Das weisse Band) [illegible] Michael Haneke [illegible] White Ribbon [illegible] his provocative [illegible] The Piano Teacher, Caché, Funny Games). This portrait of a Northern German farming village a year before [illegible] challenging. The seemingly peaceful community is actually a seething cauldron of [illegible] violence. [illegible] Who is beating the [illegible] children, [illegible] the town doctor, kidnapping the baron's [illegible] a "retarded" boy [illegible] village. After awhile the mystery begins [illegible] the usual [illegible] Haneke [illegible] lesson, and you may want to drop the course before [illegible] but Christian Berger's rich black and white cin-

The Crazies

ematography is [illegible] documentary [illegible] With Christian Friedel and Leonie Benesch as the local [illegible] and his sweetheart. Written and directed by Haneke. (141 min.) (R.V.)CAPH, AL

The Wolfman Gothic as all hell. Unsolved [illegible] as famed horror franchise [illegible] updated by director Joe Johnston with splashes of [illegible] Emily Blunt, [illegible] Jordan [illegible] (The Company of Wolves). The Victorian setting is well considered, and [illegible] that [illegible] has the requisite haunted look for the role of Lawrence Talbot, who returns to his [illegible] family seat in England to find his father (Anthony Hopkins, [illegible]) and his late brother's [illegible] (Emily Blunt, properly available) waiting for him amid rumors of a wild [illegible] prowling the countryside. [illegible] (Jurassic Park III) sets [illegible] with production [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] makeup effects (Rick Baker). But more importantly with the screenplay by Andrew Kevin Walker and David Self, adapted from Curt Siodmak's 1941 original. It's [illegible] sweet [illegible] refreshing in a 2010 horror pic. Character parts are [illegible] as well, especially Hugo Weaving as a Scotland Yard inspector, Geraldine Chaplin as the Gypsy [illegible] and Art Malik as Singh, Sir John's manservant. It's definitely [illegible] (125 min.) (R.V.)ATC, BS, HC, BP, CWC, CR, CCPH, [illegible] CM, CCC, CE, CPC, RA, RH, AL, UAB

The Yellow Handkerchief Three drifting characters — a newly released ex-con (William Hurt), a disconnected teenage [illegible] (Kristen Stewart), and a would-be [illegible] (Eddie Redmayne) — [illegible] the back roads of post-Katrina Louisiana. Director Udayan Prasad's self-consciously quiet, ultra-indie drama (screenplay by Erin Dignam from a story by Pete Hamill) has a [illegible] getting started, but once the [illegible] with his lost girlfriend (Maria Bello) [illegible] we don't mind sticking around for awhile. Hurt and Bello carry the load ably. A [illegible] about [illegible] (97 min.) (R.V.)

The Young Victoria Emily Blunt may be at slightly over her head in this relatively straightforward [illegible] drama about the coming of age [illegible] the grooming of power [illegible] of England's longest-reigning monarch, Queen Victoria. But she gives it a go anyway. Director Jean-Marc Vallée [illegible] around which Vicky [illegible] at the throne while romancing [illegible] Prince Albert (Rupert Friend of Chéri), a [illegible] in the royal household. [illegible] of the parts [illegible] and a few of them, Paul Bettany as the [illegible] Lord Melbourne, [illegible] Richardson as Vicky's mum, Thomas Kretschmann as [illegible] King Leopold of Belgium — are pretty good. And the [illegible] work is [illegible] English [illegible] a [illegible] change from the [illegible] of old Hollywood. [illegible] The workmanlike screenplay is by Julian Fellowes (Vanity Fair, Gosford) (105 min.) (R.V.)BA

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

The Younger Generation (75 min., 1929) Before "Capraesque": Early Frank Capra (PFA, 7:00)

Pink Floyd: The Wall (95 min., 1982) The Kids Are Alright: Post-Fifties Dissent and the Rise of Youth Culture (PFA, 8:35)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

So This Is Love (55 min., 1928) Before "Capraesque": Early Frank Capra (PFA, 7:00)

The Bitter Tea of General Yen (88 min., 1934) Before "Capraesque": Early Frank Capra (PFA, 8:30)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

XXY (86 min., 2007) Saturday Afternoon at the Movies (Berkeley Public Library, Claremont Ribbon 3:00)

It Happened One Night (105 min., 1934) Before "Capraesque": Early Frank Capra (PFA, 6:30)

Thus Women (88 min., 1999) The Kids Are Alright: Post-Fifties Dissent and the Rise of Youth Culture (PFA, 8:35)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Sal a Cinema: A Tribute to [illegible] Filmmaker Sid Laverents (65 min., 1963-85). Celebrating Amateur Film (PFA, 3:00)

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Bone (110 min., 2005) Free Movie Night (974 Gilman St., Berkeley, 7:30)

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LOCAL BANDS GET A BOOST AT NOISE POP

Judgement Day and the Mumlers headline for the first time this year

By Jeffrey Callen

From its humble beginnings in 1993 as a single club show of five bands, Noise Pop has grown into a week-long "celebration of indie music and culture." It now includes a film festival, art shows, a music industry mini-conference, and a design fair and marketplace. However, music remains Noise Pop's focus, with more than thirty shows in large and small venues scattered around San Francisco and, for the first time this year, at the Fox Theater in Oakland.

While there are no designated headliners at Noise Pop, each year's lineup includes internationally prominent performers. This year it's the Yoko Ono Plastic Band and the Magnetic Fields. Star acts add excitement to the festival, but Noise Pop's national status is based on it being one of the premier showcases for that most loosely defined musical genre, indie rock. Noise Pop prides itself on bringing exposure to emerging bands, some of whom go on to become major acts. And from year to year, good up-and-coming bands move from opening to headlining shows — the Shins first appeared as an opening act and Death Cab for Cutie as a mid-bill act.

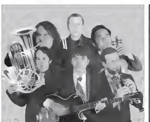
Noise Pop festival cofounder Kevin Arnold said that while it's a "small little speck of a festival," it's also "an integral part of the local landscape," providing something for local bands to aspire to and bringing more great bands from out of town during a "quiet time in February." He was hesitant to predict which bands Noise Pop might break this year and believes the festival has only a small role in any band's success.

Show Details

The Mumlers play with the Growlers, Sonny and the Sunsets, and the Ferocious Few on Friday, Feb. 26, at Cafe du Nord (2170 Market St., San Francisco). 8 p.m., $12, $14

Judgement Day plays with Sessions for Lefty, Ghost and the City, and Glaciers on Friday, Feb. 26, at Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco). 9 p.m., $12, $14

However, local bands that have come up through the ranks are more than willing to credit Noise Pop with giving some bounce to their careers. The festival places special emphasis on booking local bands and strives for half the bands at each year's festival to come from the greater Bay Area (Santa Cruz to Sacramento). (Noise Pop will host a daily "Happy Hour" at Bender's Bar that features only local acts.) Two Bay Area bands that have come up through the ranks and are headlining for the first time this year are Judgement Day, a "string metal" trio out of Oakland, and the Mumlers, a seven-piece alt-folk group out of San Jose.


The Mumlers.

The dual identification of Judgement Day as a string metal band and an indie-rock band points to the fluidity of the indie-rock genre and the ways in which the band is and is not a metal band. The first time you hear heavy metal on violin (Anton Patzner), cello (Lewis Patzner), and drums (Jon Bush), it strikes you as a novelty act, but as Anton made clear in a recent interview, Judgement Day is a serious musical effort. The band wants to "bring something new to the world of music," he said.

Steeped in both rock and classical traditions, Anton and his brother Lewis, a conservatory-trained cellist, began busking on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley in 2002. They spent the next six years figuring out how to make metal on violin and cello work. Their first album, 2004's *Dark Opus*, was part of that process; after that, Anton says it was just exploring and experimentation.

Judgement Day was not the first band to play heavy metal on violin and cello — that distinction probably belongs to Rasputina or Apocalyptica, bands that formed in the early Nineties — but Judgement Day is opening up new musical territory. Other string metal (aka "cello rock") bands play covers, placing themselves squarely into novelty act territory. Playing only original compositions helps Judgement Day avoid being dismissed as mere novelty. Anton also feels that not having or wanting a singer allows them to shred without being pigeonholed as a metal band. They typically tour with indie bands, not metal bands. The one time they toured with a metal band, Anton remembers that the "metal kids" loved them, said as if he's never been a metal kid himself. For the Patzner brothers, Judgement Day is an exercise in self-definition: Anton, the hardcore rocker who toured with fellow indie band Bright Eyes; Lewis, the working classical musician whose wrote an etude for their last EP that consisted of two minutes of solo shredding on cello.

The musical challenges of playing metal on strings — creating strong rhythms that can lock in with the drums, the cello providing both the low tones of the bass part and the

Judgement Day

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mid-range rhythm guitar part — are matched by the challenges of directing your own career. Finding appropriate venues is part of that. Anton feels Judgement Day fits at Noise Pop because the festival "is not as much about genre as about having innovative bands." He also appreciates the way the festival mixes local bands and "amazing headliners." Judgement Day opened a Noise Pop show in 2008; this year it's headlining. For Anton, it's both "a big honor" and "an amazing opportunity."

Will Sprott, lead singer and primary songwriter for the Mumlers, says he "likes old things — specifically folk, soul and Fifties and Sixties pop." You can hear that in the songs of the Mumlers. The seven band members don't intellectualize the diverse musical sources they draw from or worry about authenticity, but "just let the songs congeal." Critics have cited echoes of Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen, Van Morrison, Bobby 'Blue' Bland and others. There's an element of truth in all those takes but it also reflects that there is something unique and elusive in the sound of the Mumlers.

Born and raised in San Jose, Sprott called friends who played a variety of instruments to help him with an EP he was recording at a friend's house. The ensemble quickly grew to include French horn, cello, trombone and glockenspiel in addition to bass, drums, keyboards and guitars. They put on a show and haven't stopped playing since. The band got a lucky break when a friend gave its EP to the editor of *Slap* skateboard magazine who passed it on to Clacin, the label that ended up releasing its next two albums.

The last three years, the Mumlers have played Noise Pop as a supporting act; this year they're headlining. Their prior appearances at Noise Pop helped the band establish itself in San Francisco, and Sprott is sure it helped open doors to other possibilities beyond the Bay Area, but that's a hard thing to track. Noise Pop also helped the Mumlers gain the opportunity to play with really big bands from all over the world. Last fall, the Mumlers released their well received second album, *Don't Throw Me Away*, and completed their first national tour — and entered what Sprott describes as an "interesting phase" in which the band decides where to go from here. Moving to the next level of success may mean that the band members, who have "real jobs," will have to make a choice. Whatever bounce they get out of Noise Pop will figure into the calculations. ●

To share this story go to: ebx.by/p/noisepop10

Feedback@EastBayExpress.com

NOISE POP! 2010 SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Feb. 24

Film

Anvil, Toast: Live Toast: Capital of the World? Roxie Theater, 8 p.m., $10
Peter Hong, Roxie Theater 9:15 p.m., $10

Music

Love Is Chemicals, the the Toys, Wild and Wari, Benders Bar 5-8 p.m. free

Radars, Best Coast, the Sandwitches, Young Prisms, Cafe du Nord 8 p.m. $12

Toast: Winn, Princeton Man/Stephen Two Sheds, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $15 (SOLD OUT)

The Toast of a Toast: Toothed Tiger, Yes, Conventions Musicians, DJ Escodevils, The Independent, 8 p.m. $20

Foreign Born, Girl Minds & Colys, Free Energy, the Splinters, Rickshaw Stop 8:30 p.m. $12-$14

Thursday, Feb. 25

Art

Photography Outside the Comer, Hotel Biron, 5-8 p.m. free

The Art of Noise, Sciene, Project One 5-8 p.m. free

Film

Toast: Fox Wine, Vz Cinema 7:30 p.m. $10 (SOLD OUT)

Film Festival Reception, Vz Cinema, 5:30 p.m., free

The Heart Is a Drum Machine, Vz Cinema, 9:30 p.m. $10

Music

Toast: Studios, the the Fashioned Way, Shark Toys, Benders Bar 5-8 p.m. free

Crazy Brave, Elliott, Greg Ashley, Tape Deck Mountain, Cafe du Nord 8 p.m. $12-$14

Fur (reunion show), Spiderweb, Picture Dreams, Oil Trophy Fire, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $16

The Toast: A Magik Magik Orchestra Collaborative Performance, Palace of Fine Arts, 8 p.m. $25

Zoo Art, the Hot Toothed Leslie and the Animals, Tiny Television, Rickshaw Stop, 8:30 p.m. $12-$14

Friday, Feb. 26

Art

The Art of Noise, Sciene, Project One 5-8 p.m. free

Film

Toast: John Bear, ATA, 7 p.m., $10

Downtown Calling, ATA, 9 p.m., $10

Music

Mont and Me Pons, Sponsory Mont and the Dandies, Presidioed, Benders Bar 5-8 p.m. free

Big Light listening party, Mini Bar 7-9 p.m. free

John Vanderslice, Woods, Kacey, Conspiracy of Toast, Swedish American Hall, 8 p.m. $15

Miss Bones, Songwriter, Magic Wands, Best Coast, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $16-$18

The Mumlers, the Mumlers, Sonny and the Sunsets, Girl Ferocious Few, Cafe du Nord 8 p.m. $12-$14

Wallpaper, the Limousines, Butterfly Bones, Battlehooch, Slim's 8 p.m. $14

Free Tut, Nathan Fake, Rainbow Arabia, Nevrillager, The Independent, 9 p.m. $11-$18

Scissors for Lefty, Judgement Day, Brass Boo, Oil Ufly, Rainbow, Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m. $12

Saturday, Feb. 27

Shop

Pop 'n' Shop, The Verdi Club, noon-5 p.m., free

Film

Gnarled Stories: John Dwyer and Lee Harvey, ATA 7 p.m. $10

Woodstock: Now & Then, ATA, 4 p.m., $10

Conference

Memory Toast: Stephen Presidio Hall, 9 a.m. $15

Music

Odawas, the Dewe, Oval Ghost, Benders Bar 4-7 p.m. free

Mont listening party, Mini Bar, 1-9 p.m. free

The Fresh & Onlys. Ben Prichard

Memory Tapes, Laque, Girls & Batteries, Letting Up Despite Great Faults, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $12

Magnetic Fields, Mark Eitzel, Fox Theater 8 p.m. $32.50

P.E.A., Star Nation Oven, Toast: White, Cafe du Nord 9 p.m. $12-$14

We Were Promised Jetpacks, the Lovely Feral, Bear Hands, Tempo No Tempo, Slim's, 8 p.m. $16

Tinu Eggars, Minos, Toast: Feathers, Dear Sweeten, Gateria Son Ray, Swedish American Hall 8 p.m. $15

The Soundtrack of Our Lives, Woo Vega, the Act for Animals, NathanToast, The Independent, 8 p.m. $17

Mark Kozelek, Laura Gibson, Paolo Bones, Fonzes, Great American Music Hall 8 p.m. $20-$20

?!!, Mont Mont Stage & Gold, My First Earthquake, Mezzanine, 8 p.m. $27

Mont Prairie Trainwreck Riders, Dirty & Dolly, Mont Find From the Rickshaw Stop 8:30 p.m. $14

Sunday, Feb 28

Film

The Secret to a Happy Ending, ATA, 2 p.m. $10

All My Friends Are Funeral Singers ATA, 4:15 p.m. $10

Sneak Preview: A Film About Stephin Merritt and the Magnetic Fields, Mezzanine 5 p.m. $15

Music

Glory Banners, the Hoods, Toast: Vinyasa, Lauda, Bottom of the Hill 1 p.m. $12

Edward Sharpe & the Magnetic Zeros, the Watson Twins, Ab & the Sea, the Northern Key, Bimbo's 365 Club 7:30 p.m. $20-$22

Monday, Mar 1

Magnetic Fields, Mark Eitzel, Herbst Theater, 8 p.m. $32.50 (SOLD OUT)

VENUES

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Bottom of the Hill
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Cafe Du Nord
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Fox Theater
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Great American Music Hall
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Herbst Theatre
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Hotel Biron
45 Rose St., SF

The Independent
628 Divisadero St., SF

Mezzanine
444 Jessie St., SF

Mini Bar
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Project One
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Rickshaw Stop
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Roxie
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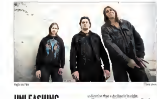

High on Fire

Jeff Shaw

UNLEASHING SNAKES

High on Fire's fifth studio album *Snakes for the Divine* shows the metal trio only improving with age

By Kathleen Wentz

Some bands struggle as they get older. Lacking the pressure of expectations, a debut album can conjure inspired genius, only to be followed by the dreaded "sophomore slump." Metal bands, particularly vulnerable to the physical demands of their music, can lose the speed and ferocity with which they played in their youths or succumb to market pressure to make their sound more palatable. It may not have seemed possible considering the strength of its prior releases, but High on Fire has managed to continually improve with age.

Case in point: When it came time for the Oakland metal trio to write its fifth album, *Snakes for the Divine*, the biggest challenge the members faced was how to whittle down about four hours worth of material it had in the can. On 2007's *Death Is This Communion*, vocalist/guitarist Matt Pike had purposely sung within his range; this time he's hitting larger and higher notes — the result, he says, of more lung power and better control. Drummer Des Kensel, having gone through two surgeries related to playing injuries, got an endorsement from Tama and finally built his dream kit, adding another kick drum and rack tom. Now he's doing double bass with two drums (as opposed to one drum and two pedals).

That doesn't mean the songwriting was easy. To the contrary, Pike says it's only gotten more difficult. "We challenge ourselves all the time, so we make it hard on ourselves a lot on purpose 'cause all of us are good and all of us strive to be better," he said at an Oakland bar on a recent Friday afternoon. To that end, *Snakes for the Divine* shows the band pushing itself musically, yet still sounding undeniably like High on Fire. The songs are heavier, more complex, thoughtfully arranged, and technically impressive. In short, *Snakes for the Divine* is the sound of a band at the top of its game — except there's no indication that a decline is in sight.

The opening title track starts off with an AC/DC "Thunderstruck"-like guitar riff, then unleashes a fast, low-end rumble in which bassist Jeff Matz matches Pike's playing with jaw-dropping accuracy. After the similarly revved-up "Frost Hammer," the pace is broken up by "Bastard Samurai," a return to the band's groovier, doomier roots. Despite the song's slower tempo, it's one of the more difficult tracks for Pike to play live. "It's fucking hard," he said. "I use my toggle switch and there's all this footwork, and I have to sing at the same time. So it's kinda confusing." That's followed up by the dizzying intro riffage of "Ghost Neck," with Kensel laying down that tom-heavy "tribal" beat he's known for. "Fire, Flood and Plague" sounds like classic High on Fire — but tighter and fuller, if possible. Epic closer "Holy Flames of the Firespitter" employs a war-cry chorus behind a thick groove, with Kensel, Matz, and Pike sounding like a unified battle unit mowing down fields of mediocrity.

Partial credit for the band's recharged sound goes to new producer Greg Fidelman, who was behind Slayer's *World Painted Blood*, Johnny Cash's *American V: A Hundred Highways*, and Metallica's *Death Magnetic*. "We were trying to figure out who to use as a producer," Kensel recalled. "We were thinking about Jack [Endino] again. Terry Date was another guy. Kurt [Ballou] from Converge, and then our new manager said that he's been dealing with Greg Fidelman because he's been working with Slayer. And we're, like, whatever man, we're not gonna be able to afford this guy."

Despite their limited budget, Fidelman showed interest. "He flew up and watched us practice and we just barraged him with all this music," said Pike, who added that the band ultimately chose him as much as he chose the band. But from the get-go, it was apparent that their material was going to need shaping. "He's like, 'Jesus, you guys are fucking out of control, you have like four albums going on.'"

In August, the band flew to Los Angeles and rented a practice room for about two and a half weeks of preproduction. Five of the eight songs were already completed. Two — "Ghost Neck" and "Bastard Samurai" — were written during that time, while the title track got more added onto it (although the intro riff of "Ghost Neck" was something Pike had around since the band's early days). "We had just so much music, the hardest part for us was arranging it and putting it together in a way that made

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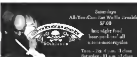
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sense," said Matz.

Thus, Fidelman was crucial to the creative process. "He was kinda like a fourth ear to us, and he's like, well what if what if giving us what ifs," said Pike. "So he was way more hands on than, say, Endino ... Fidelman was all 'No, dude that needs something that goes there.' That's the difference between a producer and a kind of a producer-slash-engineer. He's a producer. He had a lot to do with the way the album was put together."

Also aiding the songwriting process was a newly acquired sixteen-track digital recorder which allowed the band to develop parts without other members being present. Kensel says Matz' bass parts on "Bastard Samurai" came together that way, while Kensel laid down the drum beat for "Holy Flames of the Firespitter" and "Frost Hammer," which sparked Pike to start playing along. "A lot of stuff sort of evolved that way," said Matz. In addition, Pike said they "try everything in there, everything in here, try every angle until it sounds right to all of us."

By the time the band headed into the studio in September it was well oiled. The guys clocked in nine to fourteen hours a day — "just belting it out and getting perfect takes," said Pike. Recording at the Pass Studios in Los Angeles not only allowed the band a comfortable recording environment with all the amenities, but one in which the members — away from home distractions — could focus completely on the music.

The majority of the bass, drums, and rhythm guitar were recorded live (fully digital for the first time in the band's career) with the three playing altogether. Production-wise, High on Fire has gradually moved away from the very muddied sound it started off with — and *Snakes* is no exception to the trend. Matz says he "wanted it to sound huge, with a really big, warm bottom end." Pike's goals were "huge and separated."

Though clearly serious and ambitious about their music (they practice for a couple hours a day, four to five days a week), Pike, Kensel and Matz also have an easy, jokey rapport, which no doubt lends itself to getting along in the studio and on the road. "The communication thing is major when you're in a roving hotel room for that long," said Pike.

Having just gotten off a successful nationwide tour opening for Dethklok and Mastodon, the band is primed to embark on a headlining tour in March — its first in two years. (It plays Oakland's Fox Theater on May 8 with Mastodon, Baroness, Black Cobra, Priestess, and others.) With so much experience on tour supporting bigger bands and thus playing to stadiums who aren't familiar with their music, Pike says he's realized that, beyond songwriting and musicianship, learning to be an entertainer is also key. "You need to psyche that thing inside people up so that they're having a good time," he said. "So that's your job, too, on top of trying to create all that. It can be overwhelming and exhausting in your brain."

Indeed, playing in High on Fire can take its toll. There's the touring, the partying, and the need to be at peak performance at all times. But the band's limitations have instead necessitated improved technique. Pike works on his "rock moves" while Kensel approaches his playing with better control and accuracy.

Getting it to all gel together is a minor miracle. But they succeeded on *Snakes for the Divine*. "Trying to come up with ideas of what direction it's gonna go in or try to add a part we already had onto it, and then on top of that then have it sound right, feel right, and have us all into it and agree on it, that was definitely challenging, but I think we definitely did it," Kensel said, then caught himself sounding like an earnest after-school special. "We did it, man!" ●

To share this story, go to: alia.hy.pr/highonfire

Kathleen Wentz@EastBayExpress.com

Lyrically, Matt Pike conjures up his usual sources of inspiration on *Snakes for the Divine*: religion and spirituality, band tunes, weird David Icke conspiracies, and H.P. Lovecraft imagery. But there are some surprising meanings, too. Here, Pike shares some of his concepts behind the cryptic lyrics.

"Snakes for the Divine"

"'Snakes for the Divine' was based upon the idea that Adam and Eve weren't the first people on Earth. They were the first people to take the reptoid DNA, which is a David Icke theory, and Adam had a wife named Lilith before Eve and she ate her young because you know certain animals will eat their young if their young they know aren't healthy. So I take it that the human reptoid experiment didn't work with that so they found a different way to manipulate Eve, which has to do with her and the snake and all that."

"How Dark We Pray"

"'How Dark We Pray' is along the same lines but it's also kinda about my mom dying and me losing faith in religion, not spirituality so much."

"Ghost Neck"

"'Ghost Neck' is about a dude who used to be a friend of mine. I never got it off my chest but he stole a girl that I loved from me and got her hooked on heroin with him. I just kinda got it off my chest cussing someone out but I'm just putting it in lyrics. That one hurt me a long time ago, and that's still lingering, how fucked up that was."

"Bastard Samurai"

"That's about a comic book. This fan of ours used to always come to the shows and bring this *Bastard Samurai* book and I really got into the comic book. It's about this total samurai guy who just kinda wanders around but the yakuza bet on him all the time. And he has this one girl that's like a guide. ... He'll just get ambushed anywhere ... and he just kills everything in sight. And it sounded good, you know."

"Frost Hammer"

"'Frost Hammer' is like a welcome to the world to my drummer's kid. Because we were outside when he told me his wife is pregnant, it was really cold out. I was like, 'What are we gonna call him, Frost Hammer?' Then they started asking me what they should name their kid and then I'm all, 'You know his name, it's Frost Hammer bro.' It was like a joke and then all of a sudden I wrote the initial verse lyrics and then Jeff wrote this whole separate part onto the end of it. It's kind of like me and Jeff's, as far as lyrics go, welcome to the world, Frost Hammer guy, little dude, whatever. And it also sounds metal."

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CD REVIEWS

ALL KILLER, NO FILLER

Rustic harmonies, bassy bounce and sizzling R&B

Backyard Tire Fire

Good to Be

There are a number of ways to tackle American roots music. Some performers strive to recapture or simulate the sound of a particular place and time, possible drawbacks being the results could be mannered, contrived, and/or no fun. Or said performers could use tradition-based styles as a jumping-off point, absorbing the essence of roots sounds while making something of their own, sounding "back-when" and a little "new" simultaneously. Thankfully Bloomington, Illinois combo Backyard Tire Fire has a propensity to the latter approach.

Los Lobos saxophonist Steve Berlin produced the band's latest *Good to Be*. Although they rarely evoke the Lobos, the Tire Fire does indeed share affinities with them, namely through grounding in the basics; direct, engaging tunefulness, tight and enthusiastic ensemble playing with a lot of grit; a bit of irreverence, and lyrics about real life as lived by people that care not a whit about reality TV. *Good to Be* includes rustic-sounding harmonies (à la the Band, Son Volt), lyrics marked by working-class fatalism (*My car's in the shop/I brought it back from the dead/I don't know when to stop*), crunchy guitar riffs (think T. Rex, Uncle Tupelo, Neil Young), a variety of tempos, Beatles-like touches in textures and truculent economy (songs are all killer, no filler).

The album's ambience is a healthy mix of ironic road-weariness and tenacity. Highly recommended. (Kelsey Street Records/Thirty Tigers)

— *Mark Keresman*

Backyard Tire Fire plays the Hotel Utah (500 4th St., San Francisco) on Wednesday, Mar. 3, 9 p.m. $10.

Four Tet

There Is Love in You

Up until 2005's *Everything Ecstatic*, the music of Four Tet (aka producer Kieran Hebden) included at least small nods to the physical presence of musicians as opposed to just laptops. After all, Hebden was a member of the British experimental rock band Fridge. But last year's *Ringer* EP was proof of his shift toward completely inorganic music. And that shift has been cemented on *There Is Love in You*, Four Tet's first album in almost five years.

Having eschewed most of his hip-hop and krautrock affinities, Hebden still retains his penchant for deft contemporary composition. The minimalist "Circling" conjures up what Terry Riley would have sounded like if he'd grown up going to dance clubs. "This Unfolds" begins as a bassy keyboard bounce pushed against funky programmed drums. Yet the album eventually gets bogged down by the producer's dance affinity.

Despite this effort being another step toward the total embrace of electronica, *There Is Love in You* is a well-constructed effort. Hopefully his fans' tastes will keep up with him. (Domino)

— *Dave Carter*

Four Tet plays the Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) on Friday, Feb. 26, 8 p.m. Sold out.

David Sanborn

Only Everything

One of the prime bosses of 20th-century music was and remains Ray Charles. Charles impacted American music by fervently singing, playing, and synthesizing blues, jazz, country music, gospel, and pop, blurring lines of genre and color, birthing rhythm & blues. Charles' bands featured musicians equally at home with raw honking R&B as with classy big band swing, most notably saxophonists Hank Crawford and David "Fathead" Newman.

Charles and the latter two gents provided the inspiration for young David Sanborn to take up the sax, and the rest is history. While Sanborn is primarily perceived as a fusion/crossover player, his roots are in R&B and blues (he played with B.B. King and was a member of the Paul Butterfield Blues Band from 1967 to 1971) and *Only Everything* pays homage to those beginnings. So if you're expecting a platter of mellow Quiet Storm-type jazz, forget it — *Everything* sizzles from the get-go, stylistically closer to the sanctified soul-jazz of organists Jack McDuff and Joey DeFrancesco (who happens to appear here). Sanborn wails throughout; he's also tart and fiery as a fresh bottle of Louisiana Hot Sauce borne upon the thick, high-calorie Hammond organ of DeFrancesco and the solid yet flexible beat of drummer Steve Gadd. Sanborn even makes with a few fierce "free"-type flurries in "Blues in the Night" and the title tune. There are a couple of vocal selections. Young Brit neo-soul sensation Joss Stone lends her undulating, Aretha Franklin-like yowl to Charles' hit "Let the Good Times Roll." "Hallelujah, I Love Her So" sees this set's only serious misstep — James Taylor's singing here is so darn white that it makes the Beach Boys sound like Public Enemy by comparison.

The no-frills, stylishly blazing *Only Everything* sounds as if it's from another era, a time when performers would record an entire album in a few days instead of months, and enthusiasm and grit were more important than choreography in videos or being "photogenic." (Decca)

— *Mark Keresman*

The David Sanborn Trio featuring Joey DeFrancesco performs at Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero, Oakland) Thursday, Feb. 25 through Saturday, Feb. 27, 8 & 10 p.m. $35-$40. Yoshis.com.

To share this story, go to ebxhy.ps/rd3.

LOCAL LICKS

[illegible]

Judgement Day

Peacocks/Pink Monsters

Peacocks/Pink Monsters will remind you that metal's roots lie in classical music just as much as in the blues. Not just in the sense that the album features extensive use of violin and cello — the structure and arrangement is classically influenced, too. There have been a surfeit of instrumental metal bands lately, but Judgement Day is among the best of them. (self-released)

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on February 26, 9 p.m., $12.

Gosta Berling

Travel

Travel is a lovely little EP. Airy and ambient, it's rather reminiscent of Arcade Fire, but with janglier guitars and less ethereal vocals. With a lyrical style that's atypical for an indie band and some old-school touches that bring to mind the classic college bands of the Eighties, Gosta Berling almost sounds like it belongs in a different era. (self-released)

At Hemlock's (1351 Polk St., San Francisco) on February 25, 9 p.m. $8.

Dum Spiro Spero

Caveat Emptor

This collection of folksy roots tunes sounds like it would be more at home in Appalachia than the Bay Area. Whether you'll like it will depend entirely on your fondness for all things Americana. Think fiddles and lyrical tall tales, with a slight touch of the macabre adding a genuine Southern flavor. (I Am Wit Productions)

At the House of Shields (39 New Montgomery St., San Francisco) on February 27, 8 p.m. $5.

Evie Ladin

Float Downstream

With all the alt-country and folksy fusion bands that are around right now, it's interesting to hear a straight-up folk album for once. Evie Ladin plays folk in a way that's faithful to tradition — classic storytelling, crisp, clean banjo and folk guitar and sweet vocals. If you like folk you'll love this, and if you're from the South it'll feel like taking a trip home. (self-released)

At Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on February 25, 8 p.m. $19.50.

Bay Area bands, show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the *East Bay Express*. To share this story, go to ebxhy.ps/licks.

CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

Dave Matthews Band tickets go on sale Friday, February 26 at 10 a.m. Wed., Aug. 25, 7 p.m. Sleep Train Pavilion at Concord, 2000 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord. Tickets go on sale Friday, February 26 at 10 a.m. Sat., Aug. 28, 7 p.m. The Shoreline Amphitheatre, One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View.

Ruby Krishna & (Hindi) West tickets go on sale Sunday, February 28 at 10 a.m. Thu., May 20, 8 p.m. tba. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco.

THURSDAY 25

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Eric Lindell Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50

David Fayes w/ Sunny Gossard, Ted Falls, Starry Plough, 8 pm, $5

Classical & Opera

Bruce Jaffe solo guitar, Café Cesa Wine Bar, Restaurant & Gallery, 7 & pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The David Sanborn Trio featuring Joey DeFrancesco Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $35-$48

Drummers Mbono Relief Concert w/ [illegible] & [illegible], Drummers Circle with Jens [illegible], Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10

Mel Sharper's Big Wheezy at Jazz West Armando's, 8 pm, $10

Skip Henderson and Starboard Blues Quinn's Lighthouse, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

311 w/ The Waters, Fox Theater, 8 pm, $27.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Thursday Night Live live music every week, Brainer Nightclub, 7 pm, $5-$12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Salsa night w/ DJ Eddie F, plus dance lessons, Wonder's Bar & Grill, 8 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Wino's Night all-star blues jam, Biscuit's Tavern, 6 pm, free

Richard Shindell, David Grier [illegible] Music Hall, 8 pm, $28

Ruby Dwight Blues & Blues, 4 pm, $10

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Violins on [illegible] & Piano [illegible] Emanuele Torquati [illegible], 8:30 pm, $7-$15

Experimental & Avant Garde

Kronos Quartet: Music From 4 Fences Project Artaud Theater, 8 pm, $20-$25

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Whiteout Snow White musical revue and satire of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Blue Fugue, 8 pm, $25-$37

Eddie Pasternak Duo w/ guests, Blues San Francisco, 6-9 pm, free

Quartet [illegible] Scott Reward, 8:30 pm

Jonas Wirst & The George Mechanbay Quartet Plush Room, 8 pm, $35-$45

Quartet [illegible] San Francisco-based [illegible] performs live jazz [illegible] Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Apache w/ Camp Out, The Mallard & Trumpet Solo, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $6

Asia Ghost w/ Ralph Roddy, Ayuan, El Rincon, 8 pm, tba

[illegible] The Uptown, 8 pm, $25

[illegible] w/ Greg Ashley, Tape Deck Mountain, Café du Nord, 9 pm, $12-$14

The Budding Sons w/ Yellow Crush, Rhino Ampz Club, 8:30 pm, tba

The Dance & Magic Magic Orchestra Interactive Performance Palace of Fine Arts, 7 pm, $25

Fu w/ Sonnschein Podium Atlantic, & The Tennis Pet, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $14

Greta Gerling w/ Paull Gray, The Smart Set, Rickshaw Stop, 9 pm, $5-$8

Moe. The Fillmore, 8 pm, $27.50

Zeleph w/ Blood Soup, Bill Good & White Old Sounds, Hemlock Tavern, 8 pm, $7

Zan Art w/ The Hot Toddies, Leslie & the Badgers, & Tiny Romeros, Fanatown Stop, 8 pm, $12-$14

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Curtis Bumpy Coda, 9 pm, $7

Famous Blues Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $22-$26

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Dré & San Miles Mojito, 9:30 pm, free

Space Monkey Gooieblog w/ Rubi, 5 Dope Tribe & The Bouncer, Slim's, 8:30 pm, $13

FRIDAY 26

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Blues Steeltown Coffee & Tea, 7 pm, free

Mike Marshall & Darol Anger and Blues Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $24.50-$25.50

Doolmer/Buckner Starry Plough, 9:30 pm, $12-$8

Sleepy Sons & Voodoo Skips w/ Carlos Melton, The Blue Funk, 8 pm, $10-$12

Gospel & Vocal

Blues Robinson Allen Temple Baptist Church, 7 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The David Sanborn Trio featuring Joey DeFrancesco Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $35-$48

The Westend Ale Quartet Armando's, 8 pm, $10

Karaoke Jupiter, 8 pm, free

The Champy L. Hall Trio Starboard, 4 pm, $5

Vagabond Opera w/ Dan Cantrell Ensemble, Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $12

Vocal Harmony Part 1 w/ Blues Sistra Shawn & Crystal Blues Hall, plus Eric Yagler on bass & Blues Wiley on drums, Sleepy Hollow Music & Arts, 8 pm, $8-$10

Rock & Pop

Dang Tribe w/ Funky C, Blues Lake, Uptown, 8 pm, $10

The Featuring Jamaican Havin w/ Lucid, The Harmonies, & DJ Cheeky Bastards, Stork Club, 8 pm, tba

Blues Carey Oracle Arena, 8 pm, $59.75-$135.75

Visions w/ Tarjanus, Choir of Carnage, Oakland Metro Operahouse, 8:30 pm, $10

Street of Blues Red House Live, 7 pm, $10

Tiny Dances w/ All Leather, We Be The Elite, Songs For Snakes, & Abstension, 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, tba

Pattern Cross w/ Roll Easy, Cherry Of Mary Ghost Town, 8 pm, tba

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Brian McKnight w/ Lalah Hathaway, Fox Theater, 8 pm, $48.75-$75.25

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Doolmer Parker live flamenco guitar & Quartet on Solera, 7:30 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Rick Estrin & The Night Cats Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $20

Classical & Opera

Sacred Opera — Singular Symphony Grace Cathedral, 8 pm, $25-$50

Experimental & Avant Garde

Kronos Quartet: Music From 4 Fences Project Artaud Theater, 8 pm, $20-$25

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Whiteout Snow White musical revue and satire of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Blue Fugue, 8 pm, $25-$37

David Doolmer CD Release Party in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 10 pm, $10

David Benoit Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $26

Eddie Pasternak Duo w/ guests, Blues San Francisco, 6-9 pm, free

Theater Michaels Scott Reward, 8:30 pm

Joyce Grant & Herman Starboard Zingari Ristorante, 8 [illegible], free

Jonas Wirst & The George Mechanbay Quartet Rrap Room, 8 pm, $35-$45

Rock & Pop

Blues Explosion w/ Blues B, Hyoshi Foster Band, Kimo's, 8 pm, $5-$8

Atlas Blues w/ Geographer, Magic Wands, & Nice Blues, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $15-$18

Blindfight w/ 30pops, The Blood & Bobby Joe Ebola, Pissed Off Pete's, 9 pm, $5

The Black Blues w/ Wild Tales, Hemlock Tavern, 6:30 pm, $7

CB3 Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 pm, $18-$25

The Inmos DNA, & pm, tba

The Expendables w/ Kilson Palisades, Four Habit, & Blood Fresh Rivers, The Warfield, 8 pm, $19.50

Fiya Tet w/ Blues Pele, Rainbow Rabbit, & ManVillager, The Independent, 8 pm, tba

Doolmer Pointe w/ Dede Indulge, The Shift, & Today Okay, Blues, 7 pm, tba

John Vanderslice w/ Nurses, Honeycomb, & Conspiracy of Venus, Great American Hall, 8 pm, $15

Judgement Day w/ Ghost And The City, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $12

The American w/ The Crowded, Sonny and The Sunsets, & The Foreman Five, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $12-$14

Starboard w/ Randy Manilow, Megaprisms, & pet, $12-$15

Sons of Crystal w/ Crazy Famous, Sean Pink, & The West Of Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $8

Super Adventure Saturdays! w/ guests, Hotel Utah, 5 pm, $

Wallpaper / The Limousines w/ Butterfly Bones, Battlehooch, Slim's, 8 pm, $14

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Doolmer Jive w/ La Cande, Justin Anchata, Otto Room, 10 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Los Van Van Palo Partisanos, 8 pm, $18.95-$39.95, $10 for Sunday blues

SATURDAY 27

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

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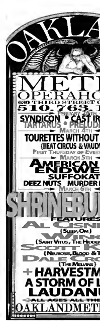
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C&C

[illegible] Amanda's, 8 pm, $7
The [illegible] Cafe w/ [illegible] Plough 8:30 pm, $12-$14
[illegible] Art House Gallery & Cultural Center 7:30 pm, $10
[illegible] Big Band Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50
The [illegible] & Hard Work Looney's Smoke-house 8 pm, free

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Symphony Orchestra Unitarian Universalist Church, 8 pm, 487-8435, kids free
The Oakland [illegible] Conservatory of Music Oakland [illegible] Hall, 3:30 pm, free

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible] [illegible] Lutheran Church, 1 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Art [illegible] Old Wine, New [illegible] Jazzschool, 8 pm, $15
The [illegible] The performs Joey De-Francesco Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $25-$40
Jazz & Jay [illegible] 8:30 pm, free
Lagitmo Jupiter 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] The [illegible] 8 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Club Unknown, [illegible] Club, 9 pm, free
Los Angelitos de La Peña Saturday morning children's show w/ live music, La Peña Cultural Center 10:30 am, $6, kids $4
Magnetic Fields w/ [illegible] Fox Theater 8 pm, $31.50
[illegible] [illegible], 9:30 pm, $10-$12
The Phenomenauts w/ Everything Must Go, [illegible] & [illegible] Uptown, 9 pm, $8
[illegible] 2010 featuring [illegible], PLF & Kill The Client, 924 Gilman, 7 pm, $8
[illegible] [illegible], 7 pm, $10

Rock Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Entertainment Kimball's Carnival, 8 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] & [illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $20-$22
[illegible] Night w/ rocking live bands, Sweet Fingers, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible] Cafe, 8 pm, free

Classical & Opera

[illegible] performs Mexican Masterworks Community Music Center 8 pm, free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] From & [illegible] [illegible] Theater, 8 pm, $10-$20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Palace of Fine Arts, 8 pm, $25-$65
[illegible] musical revue and spoof of pop-culture [illegible] in [illegible] White travels around the world in search of [illegible], [illegible], 7 & 10 pm, $25-$47
[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $28
[illegible] / guests, [illegible] San Francisco, 6-8 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 pm
[illegible] & The Lounge [illegible] Quartet [illegible], 8 pm, $35-$45
[illegible] & the Little Big Band [illegible], 10:30 pm, free

Kids

[illegible] [illegible] Performance, 10:30 am, $5, $4 kids

Rock & Pop

Benefit for [illegible] featuring [illegible], The [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] and the Beggars, [illegible], 9 pm, $7
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Billy & [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $14
[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 pm, $20-$25
[illegible] & The [illegible] w/ Strange Boys, Ty Segall, [illegible], 9 pm, $8-$10
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], & My [illegible]

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[illegible] 175 E. Vineyard Ave Livermore, 925-248-9600
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Club 21 2111 Franklin St., Oakland 510-268-9425
[illegible] 4211 3rd St., Oakland, 510-463-0195
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[illegible] 629 Ferry St., Oakland, 925-279-4387
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[illegible] 2586 [illegible] Ave., [illegible], 415-256-8286
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Lakeshore [illegible] Baptist Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland 510-893-3484
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[illegible] 2726 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4709
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[illegible] Sports Bar & Grill 2721 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7885
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[illegible] Lounge 3600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-2040
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[illegible] Cafe 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344
[illegible] City Center 500 12th St., Oakland 510-238-0830
Oakland [illegible] 630 3rd St., Oakland 510-763-1146
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[illegible] Lounge 2212 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-715-8006
[illegible] Theater 2025 Broadway, Oakland 510-465-6400
The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474 TheNewParish.com
Peter's [illegible] 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette 925-284-7311
[illegible] 615 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-4406
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[illegible] 435 13th St., Oakland 510-451-2889
[illegible] Church 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette 925-284-4031
[illegible] Roadhouse 1200 Theater Ave., Alameda 510-337-0199
[illegible] 132 14th St., Oakland 510-444-7224
[illegible] 42001 Russell Rd., Fremont, 510-979-6611
[illegible] 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-548-1159
[illegible] 2401 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Ste 130, San Ramon
[illegible] Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000
[illegible] 2424 [illegible] Ave., Alameda 510-522-1201
[illegible] Lounge 2580 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-933-1880
St. [illegible] Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 510-848-0107
St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley 510-845-6830
[illegible] 3191 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082
[illegible] 2350 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174
[illegible] 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-553-5600
[illegible] Lounge 100 & Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-451-4930
[illegible] & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord 925-685-9518
[illegible] Vineyards 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore 925-456-2450
[illegible] UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4790
[illegible] 6551 Telegraph Ave Oakland 510-653-3020
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200
[illegible] 553 Grand Ave Oakland 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley 510-642-9988

PICKS

Berkeley Opera

This is a [illegible] incredibly rich week. As much as I'm dying to attend Oakland East Bay Symphony's Feb. 26 world premiere of Bay Area composer Roberto Sierra's Suite *Afro-Cubano*, I'm pulled to **Berkeley Opera**'s *Don Giovanni* because (a), the new location should enable us to hear much more of what makes this company so special, and (b) I've seen Eugene Brancoveanu sing the lead role before, and his voice and characterization are up there with the best. Of course, if you catch the Sunday matinee, you can also attend the OEBS premiere. At **El Cerrito Performing Arts Theater** (540 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito) on Friday, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 28, at 2 p.m. $15-$65. 800-838-3006 or BerkeleyOpera.org. — *Jason Victor Serinus*

Dana Salzman

Oftentimes a young starlet will sing about love, loss, temptation, and seduction because she wants to increase her wattage or her retail value. For local singer **Dana Salzman**, it isn't a put-on. She's genuinely risqué, and a looker to boot — so when this girl sings about rocking your world ("Entity") just hope she really means it. For now, let's forgive Salzman for doing something freaky with her hard-earned jazz performance degree from the New School. She's a talented and imaginative songwriter capable of singing over bar salsa or making a vamp for 24 bars and keeping the groove alive. Her new album, *Rising*, is a mix of Latin rock, jazz, and some tight, blues-influenced hip-hop beats, and features drummers Darian Gray and

Dana Salzman.

Venezuelan guitarist Tommy Folen, bassist Chloe Lopez, and violinist Rose Kendall Valeria [illegible] sings back ground on several tracks. The band performs Friday, Feb. 26 at the **Yoshi's Lounge** (1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco) along with **Rappin 4Tay** and **Kirby Dominant**. 9 p.m., $10. Yoshis.com — *Rachel Swan*

The Dodos & Magik*Magik Orchestra

Probably [illegible] of the most special shows of the Noise Pop festival happens on Thursday, Feb. 25, when **the Dodos** and **Magik*Magik Orchestra** unite for a 26-piece, once-in-a-lifetime collaborative performance at San Francisco's **Palace of Fine Arts** (3301 Lyon St.), where seating is limited to just 450. The Dodos offer the best of Bay Area indie rock: acoustic guitars, percussive as all hell, and movement at a break-neck clip. They stomped the yard at Outside Lands, got name-checked by Dave Matthews, and released *Time to Die* to positive reviews last year. The Magik*Magik Orchestra, a symphonic group of varying size and compositional tastes, exemplifies experimental classical in the Bay and debuted in August 2009 with Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood. Orchestra director Minna Choi always matches programming to content in novel ways, and early rehearsal videos show this won't be anything like your mama's chamber music. 8 p.m. $25. Ticketmaster.com — *David Downs*

Guitar Shorty

Blues [illegible] answer to Woody Allen's Leonard Zelig, seventy-year-old **Guitar Shorty** was a featured member of both Sam Cooke and Ray Charles' road bands; became fast friends, a step-brother-in-law, and a major influence on Jimi Hendrix; and even won first-place on a 1978 episode of *The Gong Show*, after playing guitar while standing on his head. Of course, Shorty's guitar chops and gravelly voice are what's allowed him to enter his seventh decade of making music. Amazingly, his new album *Bare Knuckle* is only his eighth studio effort, and while it's packed with stinging riffs and contemporary subject matter, Guitar Shorty's major progression from a stage show that has included assorted gymnastics to go with his stellar musicianship. While somersaults and backflips might be in short supply given the Florida native's advanced age, there's sure to be plenty of surprises awaiting attendees when Shorty plays **Biscuits & Blues** (401 Mason St., San Francisco) on Wednesday, Mar. 3. 8 p.m. $20. BiscuitsandBlues.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Mary Gauthier

Mary Gauthier knows a thing or two about grief and the seedier side of life. She started drinking as a teen, had her first detox at age 15, and was a self-professed walking disaster until she got sober at 28. She didn't start singing and writing songs until she was almost 40, but the five albums she's made since then are low-key gems full of grim wisdom and stark beauty. Her soft, melodic voice complements the desperation of her art, while her acerbic wit drops a shard of light even into her darkest tunes. Gauthier plays Sunday, Feb. 28, at the **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley). 8:30 p.m. $20.50, $21.50. TheFreight.org — *j. poet*

Earthquake, Memoirs. 8 pm. $20
Rock & Roll Happy Hour Show w/ local bands. Thee Parkside. 3-8 pm. free
Karina Denike w/ Lauren Cameron Klein and Aaron Novik's Thacey Brodsky. Amnesia. 9 pm. $8
[illegible] Great American Music Hall. 8 pm. $20-$30
Memory Tapes w/ Loquat, Birds & Batteries, & Lemmy. Its Decade Great Fauble. Bottom of the Hill. 9 pm. $12
Noise Pop 2010 and The Bay Bridged Present featuring Thao Nguyen/ Mirah,
Horse Feathers, Dave Smallen, & Carolina See Kay. Swedish American Hall. 8 pm. $15
P.O.S. w/ True Widow Gham, & Gone Widow. Cafe du Nord. 8 pm. $12-$14
Pop For Brain featuring Swedish, Boat Steer Band. [illegible] Blue, Rickshaw. 8 pm. $6-$8
HipStar Area Spotlight Showcase featuring Amy Downs, Katie Gadbutti, Phantom City, & Pills and Beasts. Boom Boom Bar and Grill. 7 pm. $10
American & the Widow w/ Pharmacy
Beatnik, & Tobe McPherson. Hemlock Tavern. 8:30 pm. $7
We Were Promised Jetpacks w/ The Lonely Forest, Bear Hands, & Tempo No Tempo. Slim's. 8 pm. $16
A West Coast Afro-Funk Experience featuring B Band Cobalt Pain, Funk Fuck Mob, & Status In the Pit. Pissed Off Pete's. 8 pm. $5

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SUN FEB 28 • Mary Gauthier
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myspace.com/brianaleapruettmusic

3/7/10 2pm
CHRISTINA ANTIPA
Indie folk songwriter from CA's Central Valley, sometimes reminiscent of Chan Marshall or Tara Jane O'Neil
myspace.com/[illegible]

3/14/10 2pm
BANG DATA
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SAT 2/27 bands $10 THE CHINA CATS
DAVID GANS
JENI SWERDLOW'S DRUMMM

THUR 3/4 9PM $6 JASON DOLAN
OG TANKA
MIGUEL MARTINEZ

FRI 3/5 bands $8 BEAST GRASS
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THE DARK HOLLOW BAND

SAT 3/6 9PM $6 HEADSLIDE
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SUNDAY 28

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Jam Castro Valley United Methodist Church, 1:30-5 pm, free
Mary Gauthier Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $20.50-$21.50
The Starry Irish Moodies Records or play [illegible] music w/ host Shay Black Starry Plough, 8:15 pm, sliding scale

Classical & Opera

Swedish Room Tenor Performing Wikander's *Flickorna*; Wieck's *Tree*, Hillborg's [illegible], Sandström's *Lobet den Herrn*; J.S. Bach's *Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied*; [illegible] [illegible] in *Time of* [illegible], also Martin's Mass for Double Choir. With [illegible] Sagen Bohlin, Bach Hall, 3 pm, $52

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Balloni Instinct Yoshi's, 1 pm, $20
Maryah's Mosaic Starry's Room & Jazz Jam Zazzo's Waterfront Restaurant and Nightclub, 5-10 pm, $20
Stephanie Crawford bluegrass, 4:30 pm, $15

Kids

Earthcapades With Special Guests Zac & Jenny Bluenote Ashkenaz, 3 pm, $8, $4 kids
The Sippy Cups Yoshi's, 2 pm, $16, $5 kids

Rock & Pop

Psykopedia! featuring Ty "Rock" Rock Vamp! Tribal Bellydance, Aries, DJ Shamic & DJ Gitti, Ashkenaz, 7 pm, $13, $10 w/ [illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Kid Beyond w/ Honor Roll, The New Patch, 4 pm, $14

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Brazil Rumba Party Historic Sweet's Ballroom, 7 pm, $10
Mystiko [illegible] Pearl's Jam House, 11 pm, [illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Charlotte Tiebow Lindy Room, Mission Hughes, El Rio, 1 pm, free
Seldom Plough and Stars, 4 pm, [illegible]

Classical & Opera

Amy Tee Interiores Fanciful Charlotte Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $25
Sharmon Room on joyous fashion [illegible] gospel brunch, Top of the Mark, 11 am-2 pm, $58 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 2 & 8 pm, $25-$77
Hort Room Trio The Ritz, 1-10:30 pm
Paula West & The George Mesterhazy Quartet Room, 7 pm, $35-$45

Rock & Pop

Constable Cooper w/ Charlotte Vonnek, & Summer [illegible] Parlance, 4 pm, $8
Dirty Mission Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $12
Mission Sleeps & The Magnetic Flowers w/ The Python Fuzz, All 4 the Sea & The Northern Key, Brainwash 365 Club, 7:30 pm, $10-$22
Iron Henry Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $14
Floozy w/ Corin Beach, Garage Room, Katie's, 4 pm, $5-$8
Voodoo Fix w/ French Columbus, Mission, Elbo Room, 8 pm, $8
Partners in Doom Mission including [illegible] Street, [illegible], & [illegible]

Red Devil Lounge, 4 pm, $8-$15
School of Rock Annual Concert Mission Room Mission Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10-$15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Georges Lammam Ensemble music and dance from the Middle East, Rock Paper Scissors, 8 pm, $10
Sambre y Luz Cafe, 8 pm, $10

MONDAY 1

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Jam Baja Taqueria, 8-11 pm, free
Music for Dreams Dutch Souldiers, Freight & Salvage, 4 pm, $19.50-$20.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Skyline High Jazz Room Yoshi's, 7 & 8 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Invitation Night plus special comedy guests, San Pablo Restaurant & Lounge, 8-11 pm, $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Irish Bottom Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill, 8 pm, free

Classical & Opera

88.1 KDFC Presents: Dynasty & Different with Wind Yoshi's San Francisco, 4 pm, $15-$27

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Gift Big Rooms Kenny Washington, Jazz at Pearl's, 4 & 10 pm, $10-$15

Rock & Pop

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Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695
The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

Damir Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 pm, free
Magnetic Fields Fox Theater, 8 pm, $32.50

TUESDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Western Dance Night w/ Michele, Yancie's Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 pm, free
Ell & The Jam Nuts Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Angela Mastrorlando piano music, Caffe di Bacco, 6-9 pm, free
Howard Wolf & Khalil Shaheed-Anthony Cuckoo's Nest, 7-9 pm, free
Van Wagenningen Brothers Yoshi's, tba

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Rail Country Band [illegible] music, 8 pm, $35

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Cyrus Chestnut Trio Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $16
Jon Weiss, Tuesdays Cafe, 8 pm, $7
Shotgun Jones Verdi Club, 8:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Dingo & Umbrella Park Chalet Brewery, 6:30 pm, free
The Dry Spells w/ Frank Brigade, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $6
Hollow Like Candy w/ Floating Turner, [illegible] 8 pm, tba
The Kidd Lip w/ [illegible], Midnight Sun, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $8
Margie Eason Kimo's, 9 pm, $5-$8
Tokens By Frame w/ [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $15

WEDNESDAY 3

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] and Cajonatis Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50
The California Honeydrops Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10
Whiskey Brothers old-time and [illegible]

Evie Ladin plays the Freight & Salvage on 2/25 Mike Melnyk

Albatross Pub, 8 pm, free

Classical & Opera

Laura Zucker & Michele Armando's, 8 pm, $5

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bob Kane & the Bonus Band Rooster's Roadhouse, 8-12 pm, free
Will Nichols piano music, Caffe di Bacco, 6-9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Big This band music showcase presented by Pirate Cat Radio. This adds: 7Orange-ABC, [illegible], 8 Red Point, Uptown, 9 pm, free

An Unusual Evening with Marianne Faithfull Yoshi's, 8 pm, $35

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Orquestra showcase Shattuck Down Low, 8 pm, $12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Allen Toussaint Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $35
Bluegrass Country Jam w/ Jeanie & Chuck, Plough and Stars, 9 pm, free
Ramon Sharp Biscuits & Blues, 8 pm, $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bobby, Blanket Brewing Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
Ivan Vanderwerf and the Moonie Combo Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10
Cyrus Chestnut Trio Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $16
Ian Carey Trio Cafe, 7 pm, $5
Raja Hayat w/ guitarist Bobby Cobb, Waterfront Restaurant and Lounge, 7-10:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

300 w/ Royal Pin, [illegible] Great, Crappy Density, Cuban Cigar Crisis, & [illegible], Kimo's, 8 pm, $5-$8
Nostalgia Tiny Fire Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $12
Dissolved w/ Fine Riggins, Boy Eats Drum Machine, & Big Pool, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, tba
Julia Shafer and the [illegible] School of Medicine w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $12
La Gente w/ [illegible] Says, [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $6
Odysseybogie w/ King [illegible], 2 Man, & Sendakeum, Kimo's, 8 pm, $5-$8
Plantagen Rickshaw Stop, 8 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Snoop Dogg The Fillmore, 8 pm, $55

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Freddy Ferme and la Banda Latin [illegible] instrumental & contemporary folk, Peña Pachamama, 8 pm, $12 ■

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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All shows are free & all ages welcome! Check Amoeba.com for complete listings...

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THURSDAY - MARCH 4 - 5PM
TEGAN AND SARA
[illegible] Tegan and Sara [illegible] performance & signing. Space is VERY limited! Please visit Amoeba.com for full information about this special event.

@ SAN FRANCISCO:
SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 28 - 2PM
STEPHIN MERRITT GUEST DJ SET!
Amoeba SF is proud to present a special DJ set with The Magnetic Fields' Stephin Merritt. After the DJ set, Merritt will be available for a limited time to sign copies of his new / [illegible] new on Nonesuch. [illegible] The Magnetic Fields on 2/27 at The Fox Theater in Oakland & 3/1-2 The Herbst Theatre in SF.

FRIDAY - MARCH 5 - 7:30PM
NOSTALGIA 77
GUEST MANDALA DJ SET!

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 10 - 6PM
BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB

SPECIAL [illegible]
Amoeba Music & SF360 Film+Club present:
A Sneak Preview of a Film About Stephin Merritt & the Magnetic Fields
SUNDAY, FEB. 28, 8PM @ MEZZANINE in SF
For tickets & info, visit www.sffs.org

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 25

EAST BAY

Club Babylon w/ DJs spinning House, Latin, & hip-hop. Bench and Bar, 9 pm, free

Dinna Thursdays hip-hop DJs spinning reggae & world beat, Air Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free

DJ Fixed spins, 8 pm, free

Vinna Vinna Pop From Planet Mars DJ Red Kyle spins reggae, local hits, & more. Kitty's, 10 pm, free

Night Time featuring DJ soul, [illegible], Layover exotic Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free

Phi Thursdays student night w/ DJ Jays 1 spinning mash-ups, electro, hip-hop, & top 40. Blakes on Telegraph, 10 pm, TBA

Over the Edge w/ DJ the Reverend Dusty [illegible], spinning break beat, punk, & glam, Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

Groove DJ Zayn & host MC [illegible] classic hip-hop, reggae, & soul, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

Groove Brigade [illegible], Uptown, 6 pm, $6

Party [illegible] night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B, Club 21, 9 pm, $12-$15

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 DJs Vinnie Jules, Dangerous Dan, & Melting Girl spin 80s & new wave, Cat Club, 9 pm, free before 9:30 pm, $6

Doce Dos presents Danesh Rosewood Vessel, 9 pm, $15-$20

Represent w/ Rob the Vinyl Archaeologist and guest DJs spinning hip-hop classics, funk, soul, dancehall, reggae house & breaks, Knot Ultra Lounge, 10 pm, $5

Bluebaker Moment Wedding Night w/ the Swoo Dukie & Jake spinning [illegible] Industrial, new wave, & goth. Wedding ceremonies & certificates for all who want to be joined in unholy matrimony. Underground SF, 9 pm, $5, free if you wear funeral attire or [illegible] makeup

Tiesane [illegible] w/ [illegible], Kensuke, [illegible], plus special [illegible], 6 pm, $20

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

FRIDAY 26

EAST BAY

9th Annual Brazilian Soul-Full Bench and Bar, 9 pm, tba

Back to the Friday DJ Pemafest plays music from the 80s, Kitty's, 6 pm, free

Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music, Club 21, 6 pm, $6-$18

DJ MTM [illegible], Layover exotic Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free

DJ Odaka's Fresh Jams Happy Hour w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, soul, & funk, Parkway Lounge, 5:30 pm, free

Friday Night Reggae Party w/ DJ Sweet-tooth [illegible] Sound & guests spinning reggae, R&B, & calypso, Sweet Fingers, 8 pm, free

Happy Hours w/ DJ Dorian Grey spinning punk rock, indie, & more, Mission Lounge, 6-10 pm, free

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge [illegible] spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, Spanish pop, & house, Bench and Bar, 9 pm-2 am, $6-$15

Mighty Irie DJs [illegible] Irie [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, & hip-hop, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $10

Overflow hip-hop and funk, Radio, 6 pm, free

Sonido DJ the Duke spins funk, Latin, & dub, Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

Retro-Active [illegible] '80s pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 6 pm, free

Salsy Fridays DJ Lash & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul, Kimball's Carnival, 9 pm, $6

World Beat Fridays DJ Tropic spins Afrobeat, soca, [illegible], salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, bhangra, Arabic, & more, Conga Lounge, 10 pm

SAN FRANCISCO

Cancon Club DJs spin house music w/ Lash & [illegible], Kat, 10 pm, $6, free before 10:30 p.m.

Bluemoon Friday DJs Sporty Fox, Danish & [illegible] & Chicken Weazel spin '80s and hip-hop, The Cellar, 10 pm, free before 10 pm, $10 after

Glorification rotating DJs, The Endup, 11 pm, $5, free before midnight

I Heart the 90's w/ DJs Samala, Mr Grant, and Sunny Pham spinning hip-hop, dance, alternative, grunge, & reggae, Blamed Lounge, 9 pm, $5 after 10 p.m.

Blowpop & Robo Pop spinning [illegible] Ghosts on Tape & Lazy Bear Project [illegible], 9 pm, $tbc

VSL Fridays w/ hip-hop DJs from the Bay Area and around the world spinning hip-hop, [illegible], 9 pm, $10

SATURDAY 27

EAST BAY

The 4th Yard [illegible] w/ Sean Kennedy, [illegible] Music, 7 pm, free

Club Moment w/ DJs Ruin, Chris, Gigo 1, & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B, Bench and Bar, 6 pm, $6-$15

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ m@, White Horse Inn, 6 pm, $5

La Bota Loca Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & Duranguense plus hot go-go vaqueras, Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15

World Mill Cruise DJ Pixel & guests [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 6 pm, free

The Party People The New Parish, 9 pm, $5

PHORA featuring Reverse, [illegible] Zagreb, Nowak, Digital [illegible], Funkster [illegible], reggae & more, Oakland on Telegraph, 6 pm, free

Pop Hiding 101 DJs spin pop hits from the Smiths to Michael Jackson, Ruby Room, 10 pm, free

Moment DJs from the [illegible], Fadeux, Agentfunk, & the Bangers spin classic party [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $10

Warm-Up w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, Mission Lounge, 8-10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Moment Saturdays w/ DJ Chris [illegible] spinning hip-hop, rock, & mash-ups, [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, $5

Irie Ganjify & Daddy Moment 1010 Nightclub, 9 pm, $15-$20

M.A.N.D.Y. Paradise Lounge, 6 pm, $12

Highdeaf w/ DJs [illegible] Lucky spinning Northern soul and Motown 45s, Edinburgh Castle, 9 pm, free before 10 p.m., $5

Brigada Gold 59 DJs Daddy Ruin, [illegible], & [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall & [illegible], Club Six, 6 pm, $10-$15

Sensalima [illegible] spin deep soul [illegible], 10 pm, $10, free before 11 p.m.

SUNDAY 28

EAST BAY

Event by Boutique Roots, Funk and more, Easy Lounge, 6 pm, free

Classics on a Sunday Afternoon DJ Staglo spins soul, funk, disco, Latin, house, jazz, reggae, & more, Kitty's, 2 pm, free

Major w/ DJ Miguel spinning soul, funk, & Afrocentric old-school, Somar Bar & Lounge, 5 pm, free

The Soul-Full Glow DJ Ardi Dee & guests spin soulful grooves, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 6 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Dub Mission w/ DJ Sep, Manooie the Twister, & guests spinning dub, roots, & dancehall classics, Elbo Room, 6 pm, $5

Bobby Sundays w/ Honey Soundsystem DJs spinning dance music, Paradise Lounge, 9 pm, $3 after 11 p.m.

MONDAY 1

EAST BAY

The 5-Day dancehall w/ DJs C-Moore & Moreza [illegible] spinning hip-hop and soul classics, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

Irie Mondays DJs Happy & Serg spin reggae & dancehall, Kitty's, 6 pm, free

Mystery Night guest DJs spin hip-hop, new wave, & [illegible], Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

Wanna Hang Out? w/ DJ X-Tal spinning rock and roll, soft hits, oldies, & soul, Missouri Lounge, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

DJ Gaas spinning [illegible], rare grooves, & downtempo, Fluid Bar, 6 pm, free

I Hate Monday DJ [illegible] & guests spin hits and rarities from the '70s to today, Underground SF, 10 pm, free

Spin!!! Sessions w/ DJs [illegible], Kung Fu Chris, & C-Moore spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, '80s boogie, jazz, Latin, and Afrobeat, Tunnel Top, 10 pm, free

TUESDAY 2

EAST BAY

DJ Dada music Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ Westy spinning punk, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 pm-2 pm, free

In the House DJ [illegible] spins soulful, sexy & funky house, Spin Ultra Lounge & Gourmet Pier, 6 pm, free

Stay Punk! w/ DJ [illegible] spinning indie, punk, hardcore, & [illegible], Missouri Lounge, 10 pm, free

Wanna Hang Out? w/ DJs spinning funk, soft hits, indies, & soul, Ruby Room, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Change the Beat w/ DJs Centipede & [illegible] spinning [illegible] jazz and funk [illegible], plus musical guests, Madrone Lounge, 6 pm, free

Da Showcase hip-hop open-mic party, [illegible], 9 pm, $5

Future Gas Brigade w/ The George Hurd Ensemble, William S Brabazon, [illegible] Room, 9 pm, $8

Pacific Reverend Time hip-hop & soul w/ DJ Sake 1 plus live guests, 330 Ritch, 10 pm, $5

WEDNESDAY 3

EAST BAY

80s Night with Mr. Sam Mr. Sam spins songs from the '80s plus drink specials by [illegible], Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

soul, dancehall [illegible] night w/ soul, Motela, Bench and Bar, 6 pm, $6-$10

Fluidvibes DJ Pixel spins soulful [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 6 pm, free

Irie Wednesdays DJ Serg & guests spin reggae & dancehall, Kingman's [illegible] Heart, 9 pm, free

Pour + [illegible] featuring DJ [illegible], Forbidden Island, 6 pm, free

When [illegible] our son [illegible] 2009 we [illegible] support and [illegible] to mark the first anniversary of his passing we would like to say "Thank You" to the community members and businesses who reached out to us in our time of need. We continue to grieve for Zachary, but even so, we have not forgotten the incredible love, compassion and empathy you have extended to our family. We will never forget you.

In sincere appreciation

Frank and Julie Cruz

www.inZacharyMichaelCruz.[illegible]

Special Thanks

Café Milano, Berkeley; Looking Glass Photo, Berkeley; [illegible] Berkeley; Telegraph Flowers, Berkeley; Berkeley Police and Fire Departments; Idle Hand Tattoo Studio, San Francisco; Tucker Graphic Design; [illegible] North Oakland Little League; Smyth Fernwald Families; [illegible] Families; Department of English, UC Berkeley; UC Rally Committee; The University of California Marching Band; East Bay Express

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SAVAGE LOVE

THE ASS IS BACK

Anal in the news — and the bedroom

By Dan Savage

I'm writing to you to settle a dispute between my husband and I. We have been married for six years. We're not terribly adventurous but we're not totally vanilla either. However, there is one issue that is driving me insane. My husband constantly pesters me to have anal sex. We have tried it in the past and it is NOT my bag. I don't enjoy it AT ALL. But my husband will not stop pestering me. He thinks if we just keep trying, eventually I'll come around to liking it. I'm pretty GGG, Dan, but this is one thing where I draw the line. He thinks I'm being unreasonable. I think he is. Do I need to give in or does he need to get off my back?

Needing Expert Advice

I think we should all be — as I've written about a hundred thousand times — good (in bed), giving (of pleasure, of indulgences) and game (for very nearly anything), aka GGG. And I frequently like to remind married people — particularly married people who value monogamy — that they willingly assumed sole responsibility for their spouses' sexual fulfillment.

That said, NEA, we are each entitled to our likes and dislikes. But before I let you off the anal hook, I'm assuming that your all-caps emphasis—"NOT my bag," "don't enjoy it AT ALL"—means that you find anal penetration to be a physical trial and/or an emotional torment. "I could TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT" or "There's nothing in that for ME" or "That leaves me COLD" are not good enough reasons to refuse to occasionally indulge your spouse in whatever it is that gets him/her off. While it would be wonderful if every couple's sex life consisted entirely of acts that both partners found equally thrilling — so egalitarian! So forward! — a fulfilling sex life is too important, particularly for monogamous couples, to trust to coincidence alone.

Okay, NEA, getting back to your ass. You tried it, you didn't like it, and you don't have to keep doing it. And yes, your husband should stop pestering you about it. NEA, but you do have to let him grieve — grieve for the ass he isn't going to get from you and, if you're monogamous, grieve for the ass he isn't going to get anywhere else.

And speaking of anal...

Nancy Elliott, a state representative in New Hampshire, wants to ban same-sex marriage in that state — where it's been legal for less than three months — and here's her reasoning: "We're talking about taking the penis of one man and putting it in the rectum of another man and wiggling it around in excrement. And you have to think... would I allow that to be done to me?"

Where to begin? If you're wiggling your penis around in excrement when you're having anal sex, Representative Elliott, you're doing it wrong. Let me break it down for you, Representative Elliott. You don't have anal sex with an ass full of shit for the same reason you don't have oral sex with a mouth full of food. It's messy and no one wants a mess. (Except for the people who do want a mess, of course, but they're a blessed rarity.) An empty, douched, and lubed anal cavity isn't that much dirtier than an empty, flossed, and brushed oral cavity.

I will concede that excrement is for anal what Representative Elliott is for the New Hampshire State Legislature: a PR disaster. But excrement-free anal sex is easy. Make sure there's some fiber in your diet, be regular, and only go for it when you're empty and you'll never get excrement on a single wigglin' dick.

And now a question for you, Representative Elliott: Are you really sure you want to make it illegal for buttfuckers to get married?

"According to a 2005 survey conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," a commenter whom I'm going to quote at length (hey, Baconcat!) wrote on a blog in reaction to Elliott's remarks, "40 percent of men and 35 percent of women between 25 and 44 had engaged in heterosexual anal sex. Some studies put the incidence of anal sex in the heterosexual population as low as 24 percent and some as high as 56 percent. Averaging those numbers, let's say 38.8 percent of heterosexuals engage in anal sex. Ninety-six percent of Americans are straight. There are 190,000,000 adults between the ages of 18 and 65 in the United States, so that means 70,771,200 adults are engaging in heterosexual anal sex. Four percent of the adult population is gay, or 7,600,000 people. Roughly half — 3,800,000 — are gay males. Polls indicate that between 55 and 80 percent of gay males participate in anal sex. Taking the average — 67.5 percent — that means the number of gay men having anal sex comes to 2,565,000."

Math is hard, Representative Elliott, but see if you can't wiggle this into your cranial cavity: 70,771,200 is more than 2,565,000. Anal sex in America is primarily a heterosexual pursuit. So if you really want to protect the sacred sanctity of marriage from the unholy taint of penises wiggling in rectums, Representative Elliott, you need to ban straight marriage first.

I am a 26-year-old female who likes anal sex. The problem is my boyfriend's dick is too big. It's about nine inches long, but the real issue is girth. I enjoyed anal sex with a previous partner, but my BF and I have done it only once. It was fairly unpleasant, even though we used copious amounts of lube. Are there ways to make anal sex possible for us?

Achingly Needs Anal Love

Stop trying to wiggle that monster into your rectum and focus instead on fingers and toys and orgasms for you, cheeky-fucking for the boyfriend. Have lots of orgasms with toys of various sizes in your ass. Then every once in a while — when your ass feels like it's ready — ease the boyfriend in. He should stay absolutely still while you get yourself off with your hands or a vibrator. The next time you're feeling it, put him in and let him move around just a little while you get yourself off.

The goal here is to make anal sex as pleasurable for you as it is, or will be one day, for the boyfriend. Take your time, ANAL, don't rush things, and thanks for being one of the 70,771,200 straight people out there who prove every day that you can have anal sex and access to legal marriage, too. ◆

Find my podcast at TheStranger.com/savage
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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court
Rene C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: JASMINE OLIVIA BRIGGS filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: JASMINE OLIVIA BRIGGS to Proposed Name: [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING: [illegible] 2010, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. 31, at U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13th St. 2nd Floor Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: [illegible] 2010. Signed: [illegible], Judge of the Superior Court
2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible]. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
[illegible]
2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3/2010

Business Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible]. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]
[illegible] of Being
2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court
Rene C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: [illegible] to Proposed Name: [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING: [illegible] 2010, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. 31, at U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13th St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: [illegible] 2010. Signed: [illegible], Judge of the Superior Court
2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24/2010

Business Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Amanda's [illegible] Food**. Street Address: [illegible] Berkeley, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] LLC, [illegible] Berkeley, CA [illegible]. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
[illegible] Amanda's [illegible] Food
2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] LLC**. Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] LLC, [illegible]. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 1/[illegible]/2010.
[illegible] LLC
2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court
Rene C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: [illegible] to Proposed Name: [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING: MARCH [illegible] 2010, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. 31, at U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13th St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express. Dated: [illegible] 2010. Signed: [illegible], Judge of the Superior Court
2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3/2010

Business Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **PRA Government [illegible]**. Street Address: [illegible]. Mailing Address: [illegible], is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], LLC. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible] 2010.
PRA Government [illegible]
2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10/2010

Business Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Production & [illegible] Production**. Street Address: [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible]. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible] 2010.
[illegible] Production & [illegible] Production
2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24/2010

Business Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Arithmetic**. Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94612. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1997. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 1/[illegible]/2010.
[illegible]
2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**. Street Address: [illegible] Berkeley, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible]. This business is conducted by a Husband and wife. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
[illegible]
2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10/2010

Business Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Camello**. Street Address: [illegible] CA 94608. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible]. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]/2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
Camello
2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10/2010

This public promulgation [illegible] Uniform Commercial Codes [illegible] (UCC) [illegible] within a time frame of thirty days from receipt [illegible] you must either offer a verified sworn answer [illegible] affidavit, [illegible] under penalty of perjury pursuant to [illegible] without the [illegible].
2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10/2010

Business Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Ambient Cinematic, [illegible] Films, [illegible] Films & Plug Films**. Street Address: [illegible] Lakeshore Ave. [illegible]. Mailing Address: [illegible], is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] LLC, [illegible] Lakeshore Ave. [illegible] CA 94610. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
Ambient Cinematic, [illegible] Films, [illegible] Films & Plug Films
2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10/2010

Business Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Ecolongal**. Street Address: [illegible] Ave. #3, Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Ave. #3, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on February, 2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
Ecolongal
2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17/2010

Business Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] LLP**. Street Address: [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Suite [illegible], Oakland, CA 94612. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible], Piedmont, CA 94611; [illegible]; [illegible], Piedmont, CA 94611; [illegible]. This business is conducted by a Limited liability partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/2/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 10/[illegible]/2009.
[illegible] LLP
2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Express Logistics**. Street Address: [illegible] Ave., Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]; [illegible] Santa Barbara St., San Pablo, CA 94806; [illegible]. This business is conducted by a General partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 1/[illegible]/2010.
[illegible] Express Logistics
2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24/2010

Notice disclaimer on truth affidavit [illegible] to the natural human man Robert Nathan Roman, from a straw man I hereby [illegible] ROBERT NATHAN ROMAN and the State of California. Common current knowledge; birth certificate, marriage certificate, TIN, SSN, Drivers License and other corporate IDs take rights and natural [illegible] human people. I hereby disclaim and return [illegible] the corporate US and the jurisdiction as a US corporation and disclaim the power of attorney. I hereby claim back my nationality; More than [illegible] 1928 moroccan treaty [illegible] North Africa, Al Moroc North [illegible] South America, North Gate, and finally called the America [illegible] with a global claim of world citizen. I Robert Nathan Roman claim right of redemption to report for all my SSN, and be charged to [illegible] Moorer [illegible] agreement [illegible] and wire off [illegible] redeem the goods, debt from the currency from all [illegible] act to [illegible] US government [illegible] and Black African American Colored, negro and [illegible] brand this [illegible] person. I hereby with this promulgation redeem back my [illegible] and true self by name [illegible] born in California by [illegible] and [illegible] Roman, from Louisiana [illegible] the Washitaw Proper Moors. In the year [illegible] North America Legislative Journal House pp.57,58 [illegible] 75 [illegible] April [illegible] 1933 adopted May [illegible] 1933 House of Representatives the state [illegible] The article [illegible] of the US constitution [illegible] of Marrakesh and moroccan flag to redeem back my birth right.
2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10/2010

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www.berkeleyhumane.org

Donato
[illegible] years old and has matured into a mellow, patient and [illegible] cat. Independent though he is, [illegible] affectionate and loving [illegible] lot of love left to give.
East Bay SPCA
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510-569-0702
www.eastbayspca.org

Little Dorrit
Little Dorrit may appear to be shy and retiring at first. [illegible] she is a [illegible] ball of kitten energy. She [illegible] her favorite [illegible] and keeps bringing [illegible] for more.
Berkeley - East Bay Humane Society
2700 9th Street, Berkeley
510-845-7735
www.berkeleyhumane.org

Marge
Marge is a [illegible] pound [illegible] blessed with [illegible]. She loves to cuddle. She has a calm [illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible] regular brushing and [illegible] grooming. Kids over [illegible] please.
Berkeley - East Bay Humane Society
2700 9th Street, Berkeley
510-845-7735
www.berkeleyhumane.org

Cadence
Cadence [illegible] adults [illegible] her and [illegible] more manners. She will [illegible] where she will have to follow rules, and where training and exercise is a part of everyday life.
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2700 9th Street, Berkeley
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www.berkeleyhumane.org

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Dusty
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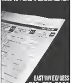

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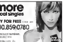

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